Travis & Arnold
Timber, Building Materials, Heating and Plumbing Equipment for the Construction and Allied Trades. Northampton 52333

FINANCIAL TIMES

No. 26,901 Saturday February 21 1976 ***10p

CONTINENTAL SELLING PRICES: AUSTRIA Sch.13; BELGIUM Fr.20; DENMARK Kr.2.75; FRANCE Fr.2.20; GERMANY DM1.70; ITALY L.300; NETHERLANDS Fl.1.50; NORWAY Kr.2.75; PORTUGAL Esc.15.00; SPAIN Ptas.30; SWEDEN Kr.2.50; SWITZERLAND Fr.1.50.

Bovis
Bovis Construction Limited
The Finance Director's favourite builder
Telephone: 01-422 3488

NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Widow agreed to IRA plan'

he body of Frank Stagg, lay night in the village church Hollymount, Co. Mayo, which IRA hunger striker left as teenager 17 years ago. his w said in Dublin that she authorised the Provisional n Fein to stage the burial her husband in their own

ter a day in which the body been flown by helicopter Shannon airport to Holly-nt where a short funeral ce was held, Mrs. Stagg d that she had ever pressed private funeral.

e said: "I have at all times d that Frank should be a funeral with full Repub-honours, and to this end I requested the Provisional blican Movement to carry rank's wishes in giving such urs at his funeral."

statement represents a lete reversal on Mrs. Stagg's ted views and caused specu-that she had given in to pressure.

Dublin the Cabinet reviewed tuation amid a succession mb scares—all hoaxes. In t three incendiary bombs led in city centre stores. six people were injured in blast.

nboat cuts wler's warps

12 hours after Reykjavik diplomatic relations with n, and as workmen pre-to remove British emblems the U.K. Embassy, the Ice-gunboat Thor cut both of the Hull trawler, Ross s, 25 miles off the cast Mr. Kenneth East, Britain's sador to Iceland remained ed in Reykjavik because of neral strike there.

d to merge cial squads

d Yard is to amalgamate f its specialist squads to ded by Commander Reg from March 1 as part of a lan to combat specialist The Bomb Squad gets a ame—the Anti-Terrorist Another innovation is ting up of mobile murder

ge hits out do-gooders'

ustice Melford Stevenson, year-old High Court judge s criticised three times in rt of Appeal on Thursday, yesterday at the increas-luence of "do-gooders." a Press conference: "I hat crime generally is ng and I think do-gooders leving a high degree of e in many quarters.

000 'down flu'

nber of people with flu timated 500,000—almost last week according to est provisional figures e Royal College of Gen-ctitioners. As flu seemed spreading northwards, southern England re-the worst hit region. ospital doctors have can-mass meeting, planned Inesday at Westminster, of the heavy work load y flu.

date

ons are to be held in rall and Carshalton on y, March 11, a week after entry, North-West poll. eats are Conservative lds. Page 9

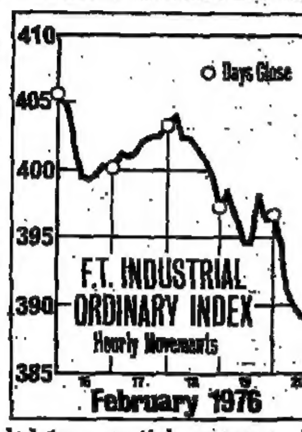
Radar

S.-run early warning went into operation last the Giddi an dMitla They will monitor d Egyptian movements. t Sadat of Egypt to-day five-day visit to Saudi

BUSINESS

Equities and gilts lower on the week

● EQUITIES weakened, with investors disappointed about the extent of the projected cuts in public expenditure. In the afternoon, institutional buying



led to a partial recovery. The FT 30-share index, after being 7.6 lower, ended 4.8 down at 391.9 for a loss of 13.6 on the week and 15.8 on the Account. The week's average daily bargains—6,295—were the lowest this year.

● GILTS were adversely affected by fears about the cost of servicing the National Debt. Falls in longs ranged to ¾. Government Securities Index dropped 0.42 to 62.81 for a two-day loss of 0.80 and a fall of 0.66 on the week.

● TREASURY BILL rate fell 0.0534 to 8.8010 per cent. Next week £500m. bills, a record, will replace maturities of £400m. Minimum Lending Rate remains at 9¼ per cent.

● THE £ gained 5 points at $2.0245 and its depreciation narrowed to 30.3 (30.4) per cent. Dollar's weighted fall was 2.68 (2.76) per cent.

● GOLD rose 75c to $131¼.

● WALL STREET continued its rapid rise, showing a 14.09 advance at 939.85 shortly before the close.

● TIN PRICES rose sharply in London with standard grade cash tin up £50.5 at £3,252.5 a tonne, its highest for over a year. Page 17

State aid for paper industry

● PAPER INDUSTRY is expected to receive up to £25m. from the Government for investment in equipment which will promote the use of domestic raw materials. Back Page

● COAL INDUSTRY £1.4bn. Plan faces a critical new study in the light of the initiative by Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, Energy Secretary, to encourage greater use of coal in power stations. Back Page

● U.S. RETAIL prices rose by only 0.4 per cent. last month and the country's consumer price index is now advancing at an annual rate of about 6.5 per cent. Page 11

● ALL-NIPPON AIRWAYS may cancel an option for three Lockheed Tri-Star airbuses and buy short-haul Boeing 747s if the controversy over Lockheed payments proves to have damaged the Tri-Star's image in Japan too seriously. Back Page

COMPANIES

● FELIXSTOWE DOCKS directors are to reconsider a revised £6.8m. bid from European Ferries. Back Page

● MARCHWIEL HOLDINGS which owns McAlpine, the building contractors, reports pre-tax profit in the year to October 31 expanded to £7.01m. (£5.23m.). Page 14 and Lex

● NEEPSEND, steel manufacturers, reports a fall in pre-tax profit in the half-year to September 30 at £0.78m. (£0.86m.). Page 14

PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISES		
vey & Ross	480	+ 10
der	278	+ 8
Dock	156	+ 10
uits	86	+ 4
ynbee	82	+ 6
	124	+ 8
s.	60	+ 6
(F. S.) Ind.	40	+ 4
ITD	80	+ 5
	250	+ 15
ell	90	+ 10
Expln.	420	+ 10
	125	+ 5
olliery	38	+ 8
Minerals	177	+ 25
FALLS		
13pc 1990	£98¾	— 1
t	172	— 6

Beazer (C. H.)	127	— 6
Beecham	348	— 6
Bilton (Percy)	150	— 5
British Northrop	90	— 5
Clough (A.)	40	— 20
Costain (R.)	218	— 5
FMC	43	— 4
Goldman (H.)	24	— 5
Hammerson "A"	358	— 15
Lowe and Brydone	42	— 7
Neepsend	46	— 8
Pearson Longman	110	— 4
Phoenix Assurance	212	— 10
Rank Org. "A"	144	— 4
Reckitt and Colman	335	— 7
Royal Insurance	310	— 10
Standard Chartered	433	— 12
Tarmac	168	— 10
Trust Houses Forte	128	— 7
Tube Investments	324	— 6
Tunnel "B"	180	— 6
Valor	30	— 4
Peko-Wallsend	495	— 15

Smith wants U.K. to join in talks with Africans

BY MALCOLM RUTHERFORD

In a remarkable reversal of attitudes Mr. Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, has indicated that he would like the British Government to become directly involved again in the negotiations for a Rhodesian settlement.

The present negotiations, conducted by Mr. Smith and Mr. Joshua Nkomo, the African Nationalist leader, are believed to be on the verge of breakdown.

Mr. Smith revealed his change of approach when he told the Rhodesian Parliament yesterday morning that he had recently received a communication from Mr. James Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary. It was subsequently confirmed in London that such a message had been sent and Mr. Smith's reply received yesterday afternoon.

Once again, however, it may be that Mr. Smith and the British Government are talking at cross-purposes, and certainly British officials were surpised at the manner of Mr. Smith's public announcemet.

Mr. Smith told his Parliament that there was a new situation "because of the Russian attempt to eliminate the influence of the 'Free World' from the southern portion of the African continent." He had received "a number of representations from other parts of the "Free World" stressing the urgent need to reach a Rhodesian settlement.

"Accordingly," Mr. Smith said, "Once again I believe we have reached a stage in our history where it could be beneficial to change our tactics. . . . If the British Government is prepared to make a constructive and realistic effort to assist in our settlement then I believe we must give this serious consideration."

A statement by Mr. Callaghan yesterday painted a somewhat different picture. It said the Foreign Secretary had been receiving information from various sources that Mr. Smith would like to see the Government again become directly involved in the settlement negotiations.

Collapse fear

Mr. Callaghan had therefore sent a message to Mr. Smith asking if this was true. But the message also said that the gap between Mr. Smith and the African National Council was very wide, and insisted that the Government could become involved only if it was satisfied that Mr. Smith was ready to be flexible and to go much further than he seemed to have done so far to meet the African proposals.

Finally the message stressed the serious consequences of a collapse of the Smith-Nkomo talks.

From what has emerged in the past few days it has become clear that such a collapse is very near. In London it is believed that the immediate result would be the launching of a guerrilla war by the ANC with considerable outside support. As Mr. Callaghan told the Commons on Wednesday: "If only Mr. Smith would realise that Mr. Nkomo is probably the last chance he has of avoiding guerrilla activity which will spread until Rhodesia is engulfed."

The British fear is that the breakdown would be the signal for even those African Presidents, such as President Kaunda of Zambia, who have supported the negotiations, to announce their full-scale support for guerrilla action.

In Lusaka yesterday Dr. Kaunda said: "I have made it clear to Mr. Nkomo: Get majority rule and you are right. Fail and you become irrelevant. Africa has been patient enough. That patience has been exhausted and now the bloodbath must follow."

The guerrilla threat is already estimated to be as serious as at any time since December 1974, when the Southern African détente exercise got under way. There are training camps in Tanzania and Mozambique, and given the signal there could quickly be several hundred active guerrillas in the field, quite

Continued on Back Page

Oil corporation appoints first managing director

BY RAY DAFTER, ENERGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH National Oil Corporation has gone outside the oil industry to recruit its first senior executive. He is Mr. Alastair Morton, aged 38, chairman of the Midland Bank subsidiary Draymont Securities, and previously an executive in the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation.

Mr. Morton is likely to be the first of four or five managing directors to be appointed by the State corporation. In effect, these will form the executive committee beneath the part-time Board—a structure very much on the lines of the IRC, of which Lord Kearton, now BNOC chairman and chief executive, was chairman.

BNOC still has to find a senior oil executive to strengthen its management team.

Lord Kearton said yesterday that there had been no shortage of applications for jobs with BNOC. Nevertheless, he recognised that the corporation had not been able to attract a top oil man to the post of chief executive.

Although a number of oil executives had expressed an interest in the job "on national interest grounds," they were not prepared to leave the security, salaries and other benefits in the oil industry for probably less in the State undertaking. Oil companies had also dissuaded a

BNOC has been unofficially approached to participate in Cromarty Petroleum's proposed £150m. North Sea oil refinery at Nigg in Scotland. Page 9

number of potential applicants.

Mr. Morton, the son of Shell Oil's general manager in the Transvaal, will initially be responsible for establishing the administrative structure of BNOC. His salary is not being disclosed, but Lord Kearton said it would be comparable with his remuneration at Draymont Securities.

In line with the Government's present pragmatic approach to participation BNOC was not taking steps which might hinder North Sea development, Lord Kearton said.

Similarly, the corporation was not intending to spend money unnecessarily on acquiring an interest in offshore fields. The aim, wherever possible, was to secure a seat on offshore operating committees and to acquire title to 51 per cent. of the offshore oil without taking an equity stake in North Sea operations.

BNOC is expected to spend £200m. this year and £250m. in 1976-77. Most of this money is earmarked for the assimilation of the National Coal Board's offshore interests and the acquisition of at least part of Burmah's North Sea assets.

Even without the Burmah stake BNOC expects to increase its own central staff from about a dozen to between 100 and 150 within the next 12 months. In addition, the NCB offshore staff who have been transferred to the corporation, is being increased from the present figure of around 38 to about 60 by the end of the year.

EEC loan plan for Italy

BY MARY CAMPBELL

A FLOATING rate Euromarket loan will be the major component of the finance being sought by the EEC on behalf of Italy. A mandate to arrange the loan has been given to three international banks, it was said in the Euromarket yesterday.

The three banks are European Banking Company, Orion Bank and Morgan Guaranty. EBC and Orion are both multinational consortium banks based in London; they are owned by some of the largest banks in the EEC and elsewhere, including Midland and National Westminster, and they traditionally call on their shareholders to put up substantial proportions of the money for the loans they arrange.

Morgan Guaranty is one of the leading American banks in the Euromarket lending business.

It is possible that the loan, originally thought to be about $1bn., might turn out to be substantially different in size. If it is less, the difference is expected to be made up by EEC borrowing from non-Euromarket sources.

It will be at least a week before the lead managers formally start selling the loan on the market, and it is not yet clear what its terms will be. The major delaying factor is believed to be the need to sort out precisely the legal security for the lenders.

The borrower will be the EEC market sources say. The problem is apparently that member States will not be providing guarantees for the loan. Lending banks will thus have to rely for their security on the extent to which guarantees for the Community by member states are written into existing treaties and agreements.

It is the exact nature and extent of these commitments which is under examination by banks. There are no precedents since the EEC has never borrowed on private sector markets in its own name before.

The outcome of these investigations is likely to determine the detailed terms of the loan. If the security it watertight, then the EEC would be likely to have to pay a margin of 1 per cent. over inter-bank rates, market sources suggest. This figure is well below the margin paid by Soviet borrowers, which are regarded as the most creditworthy of the institutions which have raised money on these markets recently.

A margin of 1 per cent. over the current six month inter-bank rate would mean an interest rate of about 7½ per cent. The interest rate would rise or fall periodically during the life of the loan according to market trends.

At a margin of 1 per cent., the loan is likely to cause considerable dissatisfaction among major international banks, unless they are paid big fees. This margin, banks say, does not provide an adequate rate of return on capital.

On the other hand, no one doubts that the loan, whatever its size and terms, will be sucesfully arranged.

£ in New York

	Feb. 20	Previous
Spot	$2.0245-0260	$2.0235-0240
1 month	0.62-0.57 dis	0.71-0.66 dis
3 months	1.94-1.89 dis	1.92-1.87 dis
12 months	7.18-7.08 dis	7.26-7.15 dis

For latest Share Index 'phone 01-248 8026

Minister may quit over cuts

By Richard Evans, Lobby Correspondent

AS THE Labour Party seethed with anger over the Government's projected public spending cuts yesterday, it was learnt that at least one Minister is considering resignation.

Miss Joan Lestor, Under-Secretary at the Department of Education and Science, is reported to be extremely unhappy about the £1bn. reduction in proposed education expenditure in the three years to 1980.

Although only a junior minister, Miss Lestor is an active and effective flag-bearer for the Left-wing in the Government.

She is also a member of the Labour Party's National Executive Committee and before becoming a Minister was a leading member of the Tribune Group.

Her views are said to endorse the group's verdict that the White Paper is a "document of shame" for the Labour Party and its Socialist aspirations.

Miss Lestor, MP for Eton and Slough, has specialised in foreign affairs and education and has taken a particular interest in nursery schooling.

In the Government White Paper, capital expenditure for under-fives drops from £31.9m. in 1975-76 to only £6m. in 1979-80.

Conflict

She accepts the economic reality of the present situation and is said to be aware of the conflict that exists for any member of a Government between party aspirations and its responsibility for the nation's future.

But she is believed to feel that education has come out particularly badly in the review and that the extent of the cut is damaging and short-sighted.

The first full-scale attack on the White Paper proposals will come at a special Parliamentary Labour Party meeting next Wednesday when Mr. Denis Healey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will be the main target.

Ministers recognised yesterday that whatever the tactics of the Opposition, the real battle over the projected cuts will take place within the Labour Party.

The Tribune Group and its supporters intend to launch a campaign to swing trade unions against the cuts and to secure a policy reversal at next autumn's TUC and Labour Party conferences.

Unions plan battle over rail policy

BY CHRISTIAN TYLER, LABOUR STAFF

RAILWAY UNIONS are preparing for a last-ditch fight with the Government to force a complete change of direction from that spelled out in Thursday's public expenditure White Paper.

An emergency executive meeting of the dominant National Union of Railwaymen has been called for Monday to discuss the White Paper's pegging of rail investment and British Rail's announcement of fare increases of up to 17½ per cent. from the end of March.

Although the week's news has brought a number of protests and calls for industrial action from branches of the NUR and of the locomen's union, ASLEF, the NUR leaders at least are unlikely to want to pursue that line.

The unions will be mobilising sympathetic MPs of all parties to bring pressure on Ministers to change tack and give the railways special priority in their consultative document on national transport policy, now promised for the end of next month.

The union campaign received support yesterday from Sir Bernard Braine, Conservative MP for South-East Essex.

He suggested—in a letter to Dr. John Gilbert, Transport Minister—that British Rail's senior management should be sacked.

He asked whether British Rail had consulted the Government before applying to the Price Commission for the latest round of fare increases, pointing out that commuters' incomes were limited to much smaller increases by Government policy.

He also protested that the increases should have been permitted in advance of the "much-heralded new transport policy."

He asked what guarantee there was that a further "swingeing increase" was not in prospect later this year.

ASLEF will consider its next move at routine meetings of the union's national executive next week, while the third union involved, the Transport Salaried Staffs Association, will meet early next month.

Joint talks of all three unions are planned and these are likely to be followed by a deputation to Mr. Anthony Crosland, Environment Secretary, before the transport policy document is published.

The unions fear that the document, now in an early draft, contains more bad news for them, with a long-term "rationalisation" of the network under consideration.

But some union officials are taking comfort from the fact that publication has been several times postponed. It was originally promised early in January.

Although rank-and-file pressure for industrial action of some kind appears to be building up — probably partly as a result of British Rail's short-term economy campaign — the unions will want to continue to work together for maximum impact on Parliament and the public.

Their argument, the NUR said, is with the Department of the Environment and the Treasury, not with the British Rail Board.

Mr. Sidney Weighell, NUR general secretary, yesterday again accused the Government of planning a slow death for rail travel.

He said in Middlesborough that there was a "pincer movement" in operation — a squeeze on revenue and investment support on the one hand and "abnormal" fare rises, turning away passengers as a preliminary to closures, on the other.

Civil servants seek talks

BY OUR LABOUR STAFF

TRADE UNION reaction to the proposed public expenditure cuts built up yesterday, with the leader of the largest Civil Service union calling for an urgent meeting with the Prime Minister.

Mr. Bill Kendall, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, said that in the view of his union it was vital that a meeting with Mr. Wilson should take place within two weeks "to review the position of massive staff reduction and the dispersal programme."

The proposed cuts were "quite arbitrary and meaningless," said Mr. Kendall. Plans to disperse civil servants from London to the provinces could cost up to £400m., he added.

Mr. Geoffrey Drain, general secretary of the 540,000-member National and Local Government Officers' Association, declared the proposed cuts had "greatly shaken" union confidence in Government moves for a second phase of voluntary wages policy for when the £6 limit expires at the end of July.

He said in Birmingham, that his union did not think recovery could be hastened by a diversion of men or money from the public sector. He advocated unlocking reserves of money held in pensions, insurance and other funds to aid industrial recovery.

NALGO, which, as he underlined, is not affiliated to the Labour Party, would not accept redundancies, added Mr. Drain, who refused to specify how they would be opposed.

Air France Concorde to Brazil.

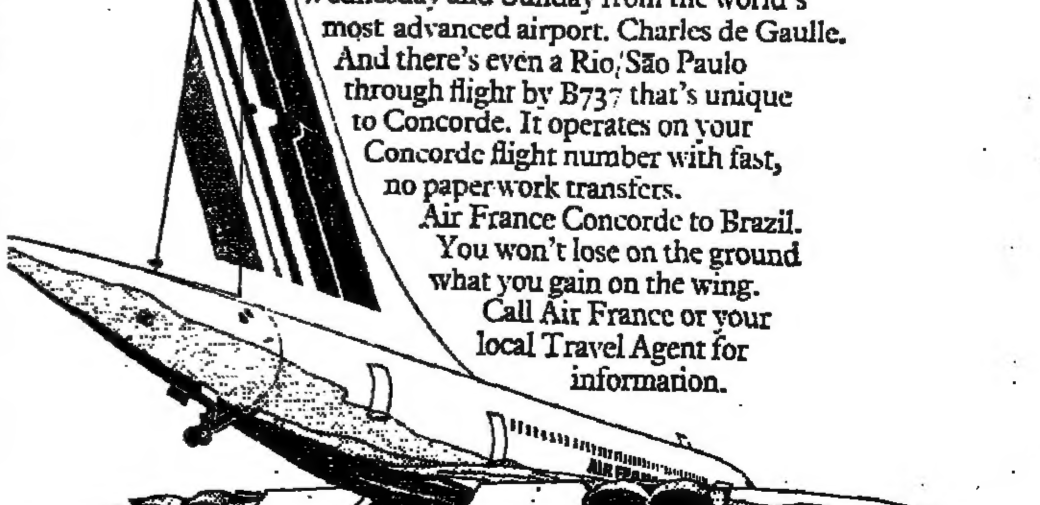
Just about the only unsensational thing about Air France Concorde to Rio is the aircraft itself. On board, all you notice is the absolute tranquillity of supersonic flight. The quiet. The deep blue calm of the ionosphere.

You arrive in Rio rested, relaxed, and ready for anything.

Air France Concorde to Rio flies every Wednesday and Sunday from the world's most advanced airport. Charles de Gaulle. And there's even a Rio/São Paulo through flight by B737 that's unique to Concorde. It operates on your Concorde flight number with fast, no paperwork transfers.

Air France Concorde to Brazil. You won't lose on the ground what you gain on the wing.

Call Air France or your local Travel Agent for information.



AIR FRANCE Concorde

158 New Bond Street, London W1. Reservations 01-499 9511. Ticket Office and Passenger Sales Dept. 01-499 8611. U.K. Head Office and Administration 01-568 4411. Manchester Reservations 061-832 7531,6

The week in London and New York

White Paper disappoints gilts

Down sharply yesterday equities are now back to where they were at the beginning of the year. The Chancellor's eagerly awaited White Paper on public expenditure turned out to be a sizeable damp squib and taking its cue from a disappointed gilts market the 30-Share index is . . . points lower on the week at . . . for a decline over the account of . . . *Dealing volume* has remained very low; and this week a great deal of potential institutional demand will have been mopped up by rights issues. The total rights money raised to date in February (around £150m.) already makes it the busiest month since June 1975.

Over the past two days, Wall Street has shown signs of taking off once again but that has been no help to London where domestic preoccupations hold the stage. The basic theme of the White Paper is that

Government spending will remain high, and that is what worries the gilt market; while *the Chancellor's message for* equities centres largely on construction cutbacks and the prospect for a continuing period of weak consumer spending.

TOP PERFORMING SECTORS IN FOUR WEEKS FROM JANUARY 22	% Change
Toys & Games	+9.6
Motors & Distributors	+9.5
Machine & Other Tools	+7.2
Engineering (General)	+4.5
Newspapers, Publishing	+4.4
Electronics, Radio & TV	+4.2
All-Share Index	+0.2
THE WORST PERFORMERS	
Shipping	−2.8
Food Retailing	−3.7
Investment Trusts	−3.9
Office Equipment	−4.0
Contracting & Construction	−4.8
Banks	−6.3

ICI recovering strongly

ICI's shares have performed strongly in recent months—rising by 14 per cent. in 1976 alone—and hopes that the group is now coming strongly out of the recession were fully confirmed by Thursday's preliminary statement. Profits rose by £37m. to £103m., pre-tax and grants, between the third and fourth quarters to the highest level since July-September, 1974, although the full-year total is still £128m. lower at £327m. The advance has come particularly from exports and the overseas subsidiaries, while bulk chemicals—always regarded as a good lead indicator of a general upturn—showed up especially well in the final quarter, with petrochemicals and plastics also picking up.

But the fibres side lost money throughout last year—mirroring the experience of the other European majors: indeed, ICI's Continental subsidiary lost about £15m. in 1975, compared with a profit of £51m. in the previous year. Recovery on the Continent is only expected to be gradual, although there is evidence of a marked upturn in the important U.S. market. Overall, with all divisions now definitely in an uptrend, analysts have been becoming more bullish in their hopes for 1976, even looking for a recovery to the 1974 level of profitability, with £600m. or *more in 1977.*

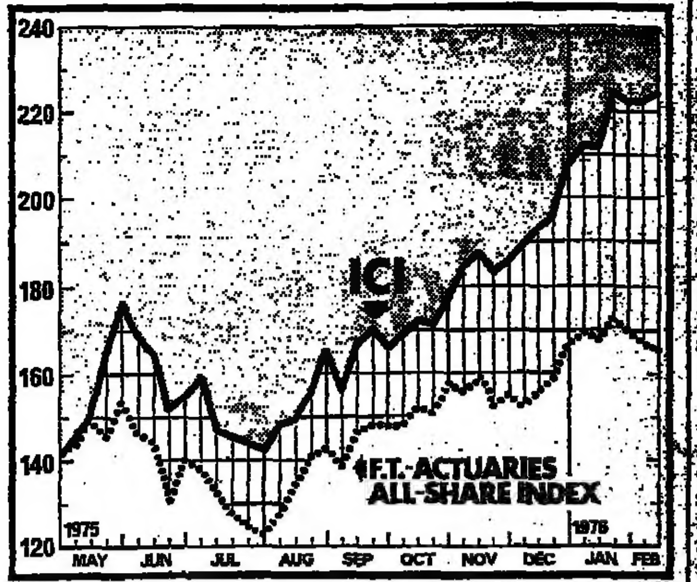
Before the announcement there had been some speculation about a rights issue, but none appeared and ICI remains in a healthy enough cash position with around £200m. of liquid resources. Its major North Sea commitments will probably be financed through the banking system and even last year the group met a sizeable part of its normal fixed and working capital needs from *cash flow. The only slight check* on the share price at present is a yield of 4.9 per cent., which is below the market average.

P & O downgrades again

P & O shareholders can be forgiven for having that sinking feeling. Over the past year, the group has been progressively reducing its estimates of profits for the current 15 month trading period. In June it was looking for £34m., against £48½m. in the *previous 12 months, but this* week the group downgraded this to £28m. Even this figure includes hefty, if as yet unquantified, profits on ship sales and from Bovis, while a further £23m. of write-downs at Bovis are excluded from the reckoning.

Such a disappointing forecast and the absence of a guide to either current trading conditions or the question of a possible maximum increase in the annualised dividend rate, left the shares a full 17p lower at 96p this week. Annualised earnings for 1975, excluding profits of £6m. (on one estimate) on ship sales, are about 8p per share, or just over 5p on a full tax charge. As some analysts in the sector are expecting an even lower outcome in 1976, the main prop for the shares is the yield of 8 per cent.

Bulk shipping, nearly a third of 1974 operating profits, has obviously taken a severe knock this year for general cargo operations are going to turn in higher profits. But the main reason for the downgraded *profits forecast is the worsening* position in Australian passenger operations and European ferry services. The write-downs at Bovis, which at over £60m. so far account for the whole of the company's net assets at the time of its acquisition two years ago, highlight the rapid change in P & O's gearing—interest charges at the interim stage had already risen by 60 per cent. to nearly two-thirds of pre-associate profits and net cash flow this year will fall well short of capital spending.



Textiles turning the corner

The textile cycle looks to have bottomed out. This week Carrington Viyella and British Enkalon both reckoned that some sort of profits corner had been turned while last month a similar story came from Allied Textile. The three companies—comprising cotton, woollens any synthetics—combine into a convenient microcosm of the textile sector; and this has marginally outperformed the market for nearly six months.

Carrington's profits decline of more than a quarter for 1975 took in a considerable measure of second half recovery—and at *this stage it begins to look as* though current year the company can turn in over £7m. pre-tax, against £5¼m. last year and £9m. in 1974. Currently back to 85 per cent. of full capacity, British Enkalon is finally out of the red having lost £3.2m. and £2.8m. over the first and second halves of 1975. The manufacturers of synthetic yarn were the most severely hurt by destocking last year and as a result they could now be on the point of leading the cycle upwards.

Meantime, both companies will be paying close attention to their balance sheets. Borrowings probably account for two-thirds of British Enkalon's tangible shareholders' funds, while at Carrington—where heavy capital spending is still in train—the ratio is even higher. The textile sector currently yields an eighth more than the market average.

A cool market in Johannesburg

Gold shares have always had their special problems and the worsening political situation in southern Africa is clearly only partly to *blame* for the 28 month low touched this week by our gold share index. But investor fears for the security of the continent are now perhaps at their most acute since the Sharpville crisis of the early sixties. And the Johannesburg market in industrial shares has not made any overall progress for close on four months.

Johannesburg tends to lag behind in times of bull markets in Europe and the U.S., and equally it has lived long enough with political risks to be capable of keeping the present troubles in Angola firmly in perspective. But the industrial market is now 14 per cent. below its 1975 peak with the average yield well into double figures and the *average earnings multiple down* to about three. And to judge by the way the securities Rand discount has been widening noticeably this month, most of the recent selling has come from outside South Africa.

But there has so far been very little adverse reaction among U.K. companies with a big South African commitment. Overready has actually moved higher this week, while an index of eight "risk candidates" has moved dead in line with the market over the past fixe days.

Onlooker

MARKET HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

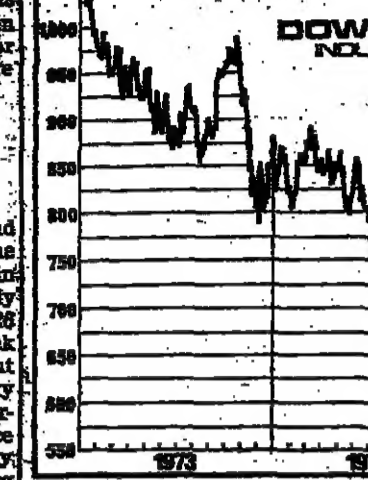
	Price Y'day	Change on Week	1975/6 High	1975/6 Low	
F.T. Ind. Ord. Index	391.9	−13.6	417.4	146.0	Uncertainties lead to pft. tkg.
F.T. Gold Mines Index	196.5	−18.4	442.3	195.9	African political uncertainties
Treasury 13¼% 1997	*£97½*	*− ½*	*£100¾*	*£86½*	*Public spending White Paper*
Allied Breweries	67	− 6½	77	35½	Profits warning
Anglo-American	305	−23	520	298	Interim dividend omission
Barlow Rand	206	−24	338	164	*Concern over African interests*
Booker McConnell	134	−18	183	58	Guyanan nationalisation move
Coated Metals	130	+20	132	30	C. Walker offer raised to 125p
De Beers Defd.	270	−15	335	161	*Concern over African interests*
Emu Wine	180	+30	180	104	Bid situation
Felixstowe Dock	156	+12	160	47	European Ferries counter-bid
Lasmo/Scot Units	170	−28	205	170	*Disappointed Stag selling*
McKechnie	71	−12	85	31	Concern over African interests
Morris (Herbert)	92	+16	94	18	Impressive annual results
Northgate Expln.	420	+35	470	200	*Bid hopes*
P & O Defd.	98	−15	128	59½	Pfts. forecast revised downward
Standard Chartered	433	−27	515	210	Concern over African interests
Tricoville	29	+ 5	31	12	*Recovery hopes*
Turner & Newall	151	−16	171	71	Proposed £20m. "Rights" offer
Ultramar	172	−16	216	61	"Rights" issue rumours

Record breake[illegible]

BY GUY DE JONQUIERES

WALL STREET got a spate of good news this week and the market surged ahead from the plateau on which it had been hovering since the beginning of the month. On Thursday, volume hit a new record of 39.2m. shares on the New York Stock Exchange and the Dow Jones Index closed up 15.67 points at 975.76, just a shade below its 1975-76 high of 976.62. It rose strongly on early trading yesterday.

On the economic *front*, recent evidence of a moderation in inflation was reinforced by the Government's latest figures showing a 0.4 per cent. rise in retail prices in January. This is the fourth consecutive month in which the rate of *retail* price



increase has either been stagnant or has fallen, and it also saw a significant rise in real spendable earnings.

The prognoses from Washington have also been healthy, and both Federal Reserve Board chairman Dr. Arthur Burns and Mr. Alan Greenspan of the Council of Economic Advisors have chimed in with upbeat forecasts in recent days. Their *optimism seems to be shared* by the captains of American industry: The Business Council, an association of top executives, predicts 6 per cent. real growth, a 25 per cent. increase in corporate profits and a 6-6½ per cent. inflation rate this year.

On Wednesday, American Telephone and Telegraph came down firmly on the side of a continued economic recovery and raised its quarterly dividend by ten cents to 95 cents a share. The same day J. P. Morgan, the holding company for Morgan Guaranty, announced plans to sell two million Ordinary shares and $150m. through an issu[illegible] year notes.

The planned shar[illegible] worth about $120m. at market prices, is the [illegible] any major bank for [illegible] years and the largest in [illegible] history. If successful, [illegible] lift some of the clou[illegible] hanging the banking [illegible] though it is unlikely to [illegible] a wave of equity issu[illegible] other banks enjoy [illegible] relatively high *p/e* or [illegible] tation for solid and [illegible] tive management.

The latest upward [illegible] been broad-based. T[illegible] chips, which perform[illegible] adaisically earlier in t[illegible] as *investors* hunted for [illegible] in second-tier lo[illegible] shares, are firmly [illegible] favour again.

This week's adva[illegible] understandably, [illegible] *forecasts* that the [illegible] once again aiming [illegible] through the magic 1[illegible] on the Dow.

But more cautious [illegible] are also warning that [illegible] is probably over-boug[illegible] *has been no signific*[illegible] ward correction since [illegible] of the current rally l[illegible] ber and the flatt[illegible] earlier this month ar[illegible] little more than a [illegible] space. Thus, if the [illegible] surge does carry t[illegible] through the 1,000 ma[illegible] seem reasonable to [illegible] least a temporary se[illegible] thereafter.

Monday	Closed for nati[illegible]
	Clos[illegible]
Tuesday	950.57
Wednesday	960.89
Thursday	975.76

Mining

A market in disarray

BY KENNETH MARSTON, MINING EDITOR

UNCERTAINTY, that most fearsome of beasts in sharemarkets, *has again stalked among* prices of the issues with African interests this week. But while *there is no denying the seriousness* of the events in Angola, it is time to attempt to put them into perspective as far as individual investments are concerned because share prices quickly get out of line when confusion reigns.

The fall in **Gold Fields of South Africa**, for instance, has been little more than that in the shares of the London-based parent **Consolidated Gold Fields** which has sizeable non-African investments that provided 54 per cent. of group revenue in the year to last June. So let us take a look at the accompanying price table which shows the changes that have occurred in the past fortnight in prices of a range of mining issues.

In the forefront

Tanganyika Concessions have been understandably depressed because *now* the company will presumably lose its Benguela Railway in Angola. The rise in **South West Africa Company** (Swaco) *can only be considered* as a freak movement in a narrow market and it does not alter the fact that shares of this company had previously fallen.

Anglo American Investment Trust and **De Beers** with their *important diamond revenue* from South West Africa to be considered also show an understandable fall. It is noticeable, however, that the shares of Anglo Trust which are mainly held by the institutional investors have suffered less selling than those of De Beers which have a large public following.

Now we come to Rhodesia and the particularly worrying political situation there which now looks to be coming to the boil. It is reflected in the sharp falls in **Wankie Colliery** shares and also in those of the South African **Messina** copper and industrial group which obtains the major part of its copper from Rhodesia.

At the same time, however, Messina's large South African earnings and assets need to be borne in mind against the background of the currently depressed share price. If Rhodesia goes under, that price will probably fall further in the short term. But if the current pressure of events forces a settlement of the political problems between that country and the non-Communist nations, Messina shares might rise sharply.

A greater gamble exists in the case of **Zambia Copper Investments** which is beset by so many political and economic worries. At 35p, however, the shares may appeal to the backer of "outsiders" who is itching to use part of the funds which he is prepared to regard as expendable.

So far we have been looking at the companies which can be considered as in the firing line. Nobody at this stage knows what effect the Soviet-Cuban-*supported victory of the MPLA* in Angola will leave on neighbouring African States.

Certainly, there is no great likelihood of a direct confrontation with South Africa, at this stage anyway. Whatever one's political views of the Republic, there seems little doubt that in a 1940's style backs-to-the-wall *situation it would fight fiercely* and has the resources to do so.

The hope is thus that the dust of the Angolan upheaval will now begin to settle. In which case the fall in shares of companies with South African *interests may have gone* far enough on this score. South Africa may now have to face greater pressures than before *from outside, but share prices do have a cushion arising from the fact that investors there cannot move funds out of the country.*

U.K. investors in the mining finance house stocks, however, *may begin to concentrate more* on the U.K.-based **Rio Tinto-Zinc** and **Selection Trust**, which, though they have fallen with *the rest of the field, have the* major part of their earnings and assets outside Southern Africa and which also avoid the investment dollar premium.

Turning tide?

Meanwhile, the dust is still settling from the almighty thumps of falling profits from the base-metal producers who have lived through a year of economic recession with lower metal prices and sales accom*panied by rising costs. Thus* there was no surprise this week at the news that the RTZ groups' **Conzinc Riotinto of Australia** had earned $42.9m. (£26.7m.) last year compared with $92.7m. in 1974. The dividend has been cut *to 7.5 cents (4.66p)* from 12.5 cents.

However, CRA's earnings in the *second half* of the year showed an improvement over those of the first six months, reflecting a similar trend in those previously announced for its major subsidiaries, **Bougainville, Comalco** and **Australian Mining and Smelting**. The last-named has halved its dividend to 7 cents (4.37p), but one leading firm of Australian brokers sees the possibility of the dividend being raised to 12 cents *this year. Perhaps the tide is* turning at last.

Maybe that is why the **Selection Trust** group and **MIM Holdings** have decided at last to go ahead with the long awaited development of their **Agnew** nickel mine in Western Australia. A start is to be made on mining the richer ore at an initial annual output rate of 10,000 tonnes of nickel in concentrates by 1978, compared *with the original target of* 30,000 tonnes of nickel in matte.

Clearly, Agnew's production will be stepped-up if the nickel market justifies this. In the meantime Agnew will require a minimum of $55m. (£34.3m.) to reach the production stage and a further $30m. over the following five years. It seems likely that part, at least, of Selection Trust's share of the funds will be raised by a rights issue in due course. Incidentally, the Australian **Selcast Exploration** (largely owned by Selection Trust) has an indirect stake of 12 per cent. in Agnew.

This means, of course, that those investors who want to concentrate their interest on Agnew rather than have it diluted by a stake in Selection Trust's wider fortunes can do so by buying Selcast Exploration. The snag is that they will have to pay the investment dollar premium—unless they live Down-Under.

Looking around the Australasian scene generally we come to **Peko-Wallsend** the multi-mineral producer which has surprisingly produced half-year profits of $3.83m. (£2.39m.) compared with $2.35m. for the same period of the previous year. Perhaps not wishing to tempt providence, Peko has done no more than maintain its interim dividend of 7.5 cents (4.4p).

Finally, in true mining devil-may-care spirit, the **Consolidated Gold Fields** group's **Mount Lyell** in Tasmania is betting some $12m. (£7.5m.) on the copper price showing a substantial recovery within the next 18 months. This period is the time in which, given these funds, its loss-making copper mine can stay in business and repay debts while awaiting a return to profitability.

The money is to be raised by an offer of the company's shares in the still *profitable* **Renison** tin mine to Mount Lyell's shareholders, the major one being **Consolidated Gold Fields Australia** which is prepared to take the lot if need be. It is a gamble which deserves to succeed, if only because the survival of the community of Queenstown is largely dependent on its mine.

IN THE SHADOW OF ANGOLA

	1975-76 High	1975-76 Low	1975 Feb. 6	1975 Feb. 20	Change %
"Tanks"	230p	92p	174p	160p	− 8.0
"Swaco"	170p	95p	100p	125p	+25.0
Anglo Trust	£35	£15½	£29½	£25½	−13.5
De Beers	335p	161p	324p	270p	−16.7
Messina	390p	196p	310p	250p	−24.0
Wankie	48p	26½p	45p	38p	−15.6
Zambia Copper Inv.	70p	31p	38p	35p	− 7.9
"Johnnies"	£27½	£12	£21	£16	−23.8
Gold Fields	290p	175p	200p	179p	−10.5
G.F. S. Africa	£39	£17¾	£19½	£17¼	−11.4
Anglo American	520p	298p	340p	305p	−10.3
RTZ	211p	80p	197p	185p	− 6.1
Sel. Trust	695p	320p	510p	480p	− 5.9
Cons. Murch	880p	360p	880p	740p	−15.9
Pot. Plats.	248p	100p	160p	136p	−15.0
Gold Mines Index	442.3	197.1	223.7	196.5	−12.1
Gold (per ounce)	$185.50	$124.25	$130.75	$131.75	+ 0.8

TV/Radio

† Indicates programme in black and white.

BBC 1

9.00 a.m. Bagpuss. 9.15 Devlin. †9.35 Whirlybirds. 10.00 Play Rugby. 10.25 On the Move. 10.35 The Little House on the Prairie. †11.25 So You're Going to be a Father. 11.35 Bugs Bunny. 11.40 Crufts.
12.15 p.m. Grandstand: Football Focus (12.20); World Heavyweight Boxing (12.40) Muhammad Ali v. Jean-Pierre Coopman; Racing from Chepstow (1.10, 1.35, 2.10); Rugby Union (2.35) Scotland v. England, and at 4.15 Ireland v. Wales highlights; Athletics (4.35) from Munich; 4.50 Final Score.
5.05 Walt Disney's The Mouse Factory.
5.30 News.
5.40 Sport/Regional News.
5.45 Dr. Who.
6.10 Jim'll Fix It.
6.45 Saturday Night at the Movies: "Where The River Bends," starring James Stewart.
8.15 Cilla.
9.00 Kojak.
9.50 News.
10.05 Match of the Day Special.
11.25 Parkinson.

All Regions as BBC 1 except at the following times:—

Wales—9.35-10.00 a.m. Teliffant. 2.35-4.30 p.m. Rugby Union: Ireland v. Wales and at 4.30 Scotland v. England highlights. 4.40 Rejoin BBC 1. 12.25 a.m. News and Weather for Wales.

Scotland—4.55-5.05 p.m. Scoreboard. 5.40-5.45 Scoreboard. 10.05-10.35 The Songs of Scotland. 10.35-11.25 Sportscene Special *12.25 a.m. Scottish News Summary.*

Northern Ireland—2.35-4.30 p.m. Rugby: Ireland v. Wales commentary; 4.30 Scotland v. England highlights. 4.40 Rejoin BBC 1. 4.55-5.05 Scoreboard. 5.40-5.45 Northern Ireland News. 12.25 a.m. Northern Ireland News Headlines.

BBC 2

7.40 a.m. Open University.
†3.10 p.m. Saturday Cinema: "The Green Helmet," starring Bill Travers.
4.35 Play Away.
5.05 The Money Programme.
5.50 Westminster.
6.20 Network.
6.50 News and Sport.
7.00 Rugby Special.
7.50 Best in the Band.
8.15 Cakes and Ale.
9.05 2nd House.
10.25 Centre Play.
11.00 The First Picture Show.
11.30 News on 2.
11.35 Open Door.
†12.05 a.m. Midnight Movie: "Lady Without A Passport," starring Hedy Lamarr.

LONDON

9.00 a.m. Angling Today. 9.25 Parents' Day. 9.50 The Beachcombers. 10.20 Fantastic Voyage. 10.45 Junior Police Five. 11.00 Run, Joe, Run! 11.30 Space 1999.
12.30 p.m. World of Sport: 12.35 On the Ball; 1.00 International Sports Special (part 1): Handball—Great Britain v. Poland; 1.10 News from ITN; 1.20 The ITV Six—1.30, 2.00 and 2.35 from Nottingham; 1.45, 2.15 and 2.55 from Newcastle; 3.10 International Sports Special (part 2): World Hot Dog Ski-ing Championships; 3.50 Half-time Round-up; 4.00 Wrestling; 4.50 Results Service.
5.05 News from ITN.
5.15 Cartoons.
5.30 Supersonic.
6.00 New Faces.
7.00 Celebrity Squares.
7.45 "The Bounty Hunter," starring Dan Duryea.
9.30 The Best of Upstairs, Downstairs.
10.30 News.
10.45 Thick as Thieves.
11.15 Horror!: "Curse Of The Crimson Altar," starring Boris Karloff and Christopher Lee.
12.45 a.m. Behind the Answers.

All ITV Regions as London except at the following times:—

ANGLIA

9.50 a.m. Checkmate. 10.15 Hammy Hamster's Adventures On The Riverbank. 10.30 Baldmoney, Sneezewort, Dodder and Cloudberry. 10.45 Adventures in Rainbow Country. 11.10 Clapperboard. 11.35 Born Free. 5.15 p.m. Cartoon Time. 5.30 The Flintstones. 7.45 The Big Film: "Assignment to Kill." 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 Russell Harty. 12.30 a.m. At The End Of The Day.

ATV MIDLANDS

9.15 a.m. Plain Sailing. 9.40 Parents' Day. 10.10 Tiswas. 5.15 p.m. Return To The Planet Of The Apes Cartoon. 5.45 New Faces. 6.45 Six Million Dollar Man. 7.45 Saturday Cinema: "Deadlier Than The Male," starring Richard Johnson, Elke Sommer and Sylvia Koscina. 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 ATV Today Pick of the Week.

BORDER

9.30 a.m. Angling Today. 10.00 Parents' Day. 10.30 The Man From U.N.C.L.E. 12.00 The Geordie Scene. †5.15 p.m. Border Sports Results. 5.20 Cartoon Time. 5.30 New Faces. 6.30 Celebrity Squares. 7.15 Now Who Do You Do? 7.45 Big *Star Film: "Assignment to Kill"*, starring Herbert Lom. 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 The Protectors.

CHANNEL

5.15 p.m. Space 1999. 6.15 New Faces. 7.15 Sale of the Century. 7.45 The Saturday Film: "King Solomon's Mines." 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 Police Surgeon.

GRAMPIAN

10.20 a.m. Junior Movie: "The Lost World," starring Michael Rennie and Jill St. John. 12.00 The Geordie Scene. 5.15 p.m. Cartoon Time, followed by *Highland League and Shinty results.* 5.30 New Faces. 6.30 Celebrity Squares. 7.15 Now Who Do You Do? 7.45 The Big Film: "Assignment to Kill," starring Patrick O'Neal. 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 Griff. 12.25 a.m. *Evening Prayers.*

GRANADA

9.15 a.m. Angling Today. 9.40 Parents' Day. 10.05 Sesame Street. 11.05 The Count of Monte Cristo. 11.35 Daniel Boone. 5.15 p.m. Cartoon Time. 5.30 New Faces. 6.30 Now Who Do You Do? 7.45 The Big Film: "Assignment to Kill," starring Herbert Lom. 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 The Late Film: "Cry for Happy," starring Glenn Ford.

HTV

10.00 a.m. Parents' Day. 10.30 Sesame Street. 11.30 The Adventures of Black Beauty. 12.00 Supersonic. 5.15 p.m. Cartoontime. 5.30 New Faces. 6.30 Yes, Honestly. 7.45 The Big Film: "Assignment To Kill," starring Patrick O'Neal. 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 Kung Fu.

HTV Cymru/Wales—As HTV General Service except: 6.30-7.00 p.m. Carreg Filltir.

SCOTTISH

9.30 a.m. Angling Today. 10.00 Parents' Day. 10.30 Skiing With Gina. 10.55 Felix The Cat. 11.10 Animated Classics. 12.00 The Geordi Scene. 5.15 p.m. Aquaman. 5.30 New Faces. 6.30 Now Who Do You Do. 7.45 Feature Film: "Cat Ballou," *starring Jane Fonda and Lee Marvin.* 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 Late Call. 11.35 Police Story.

SOUTHERN

9.15 a.m. *Angling Today.* 9.40 Parents' Day. 10.10 Kitchen Garden. 10.37 Regional Weather Forecast. 10.40 Daffy Duck. 10.50 Supersonic. 11.20 Daniel Boone. 12.15 p.m. Southsport. 5.15 Return To The Planet Of The Apes. 5.35 Candid Camera Classics. 6.05 The Magician. 7.00 Celebrity Squares. 7.45 The Big Film: "The Last Wagon," starring Richard Widmark. 10.45 Aquarius. 12.30 Southern News. 11.35 Griff.

TYNE TEES

9.30 a.m. Angling Today. 10.00 Parents' Day. 10.25 Opportunity. 10.30 The Man From Uncle. 12.00 Indoor League. 5.15 p.m. Cartoon Time. 5.30 *New Faces.* 6.30 Celebrity Squares. 7.15 Now Who Do You Do? 7.45 The Big Film: "The Marriage Go-Round," starring Susan Hayward and James Mason. 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 The Collaborators. 12.25 a.m. *Epilogue.*

ULSTER

10.30 a.m. Kitchen Garden. 11.00 Hammy Hamster's Adventures on the Riverbank. 11.30 Sesame Street. 5.00 p.m. Ulster Sports Results. 5.15 Cartoon Time. 5.30 Supersonic. 7.00 Sale of the Century. 7.30 Saturday Movie: "Hunchback of Notre Dame," starring Charles Laughton and Maureen O'Hara. 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 *The Protectors.*

WESTWARD

9.30 a.m. Angling Today. 10.00 Parents' Day. 10.25 Big Blue Marble. 10.50 Look and See. 10.55 The Geordie Scene. 11.20 The Gus Honeybun Show. 11.35 Planet of the Apes. 5.15 p.m. Space 1999. 6.15 New Faces. 7.15 Sale of the Century. 7.45 The Saturday Film: "King Solomon's Mines," starring Stewart Granger and Deborah Kerr. 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 Police Surgeon. 12.00 Faith for Life.

YORKSHIRE

9.30 a.m. Angling Today. 10.00 Parents' Day. 10.30 Man From U.N.C.L.E. 12.00 The Geordie Scene. 5.15 p.m. Cartoon Time. 5.30 New Faces. 6.30 Celebrity Squares. 7.15 Now Who Do You Do? 7.45 The Big Film: "Assignment To Kill," starring Patrick O'Neal. 10.45 Aquarius. 11.30 *The Collaborators.*

RADIO 1 247m

(S) Stereophonic broadcast

6.00 a.m. As Radio 2. 8.06 Ed Stewart (S) (also on VHF) with *Junior Choice* including 8.45 Young Ideas in Action. 10.00 Paul Burnett. 1.00 p.m. Country Joe's Top Twelve (S) (also on VHF). 2.00 Alan Freeman (S) (also on VHF). 5.00 Paul Gambaccini (S) (also on VHF). 6.30 In Concert (S) (also on VHF). 7.30-12.33 a.m. As Radio 2.

RADIO 2 1,500m and VHF

6.00 a.m. News Summary. 6.02 Tom Edwards (S) including report on Ali v. Jean-Pierre Coopman's fight from Puerto Rico. 8.03 Racing Bulletin. 8.06 As Radio 1. 10.02 Charlie Chester with your Smiling Saturday Show (S). 12.02 p.m. Two's Best (S). 1.02 The Family Brandon (1,500m. only, also 202m. Scotland, VHF joins Radio 1). 1.30-5.55 Sport on 2 (1,500m. only, also 202m. Scotland, VHF joins Radio 1). (1.40, 2.00, 2.30, 4.50 Scotland v. England; Ireland v. Wales; Athletics (1.50, 2.00, 4.30) European Indoor Championships; Football League (1.30, 2.30, classified checks at 5.00 and 5.45); Racing from Chepstow (1.45, 2.15, 4.30, and classified check at 5.40); 5.00 Sports Report: Classified [illegible] at 5.00 and 5.45; rugby [illegible] motor sport 5.30, classified at 5.48. 6.03 Star Sound also 200m. Scotland, VHF [illegible] 7.02 Steptoe and Son (1,500 [illegible] 202m. Scotland, VHF joins [illegible] Radio 1 Top Tunes (S). [illegible] World of Peter Morrison (S[illegible] day Night with the BBC R[illegible] (S). 10.02 European Pop J[illegible] *Sports Desk.* 11.05 Alan [illegible] Late Show (S). 12.00 New[illegible] a.m. News Summary.

RADIO 3 464m, St[illegible]

8.00 a.m. News. 8.05 Th[illegible] (S). 9.00 News. 9.05 Reco[illegible] 10.15 Stereo Release (S). [illegible] Piano, Four Hands (S). [illegible] Ray presents popular clas[illegible] phone recordings (S). [illegible] Foreign Press Review. [illegible] and Brahms Chamber Musi[illegible] 2.20 Woman of Action: Ma[illegible] chooses records (S). 3.35 [illegible] Masters (S). 5.00 Jazz Re[illegible] (S). 5.45 Reger organ [illegible] Critics' Forum. 7.15 "F[illegible] operetta in two acts an[illegible] music by Benjamin Britte[illegible] 8.25 Interval Reading. [illegible] Bunyan." Act 2. 9.30 Inte[illegible] Record: Talk about Holst' [illegible] Planets" (S). 10.25 Faure [illegible] (S). 11.25-11.30 News.

Radio 3 VHF only—6.00-[illegible] University.

RADIO 4

434m, 330m, 28[illegible]
3 Medium Wave

6.30 a.m. News. 6.32 Fa[illegible] 16.50 Outlook, VHF Region[illegible] Weather; programme news [illegible] 7.10 On Your Farm. 7.40 T[illegible] 7.45 Outlook. 7.50 Today [illegible] 17.50 Keep Fit or VHF R[illegible] 7.55 Weather, programme [illegible] News and more of Today w[illegible] desk and 8.40. Today's [illegible] Yesterday in Parliament. [illegible] 19.05 From Our Own Corres[illegible] The Week in Westminster. [illegible] 110.02 The Weekly World. [illegible] Service. 110.30 Pick of the [illegible] Science Now. 12.00 News [illegible] Robin Ray (S) as Radio 3. [illegible] programme news, VHF ([illegible] and S.E.) Regional News. [illegible] 1.15 *Any Questions?* 12.00 [illegible] News. 13.05 Thirty-Minute [illegible] Music of the Masters. 5.00 [illegible] 15.55 Weather, programme [illegible] (except London and S[illegible] News. 6.00 News. 6.[illegible] Week with Robert Ro[illegible] News. 7.02 Desert Island [illegible] These You Have Loved [illegible] Saturday-Night Theatre. [illegible] 10.00 News. 10.15 A Word [illegible] 11.00 Lighten Our Darkness [illegible]

Open University: VHF [illegible] 12.00 and 2.00-5.00 p.m.

BBC Radio London

206m a[illegible]

6.00 a.m. As Radio 2. 7.[illegible] ing. 2.00 News. 8.15 [illegible] Gardener. 8.30 Saturday [illegible] Sportsline. 11.30 The Ro[illegible] Saturday Show. 2.00 p.m. C[illegible] London Sport and Music. [illegible] 2. 6.00 News. 6.03 Suppor[illegible] 6.30-12.33 a.m. As Radio 2.

London Broadcasti[illegible]

261m a[illegible]

6.00 a.m. Morning Music. [illegible] 261. 7.30 This is London. [illegible] 10.00 Jellybone. 12.00 Lo[illegible] 1.00 p.m. Newswatch. 1.30 [illegible] 6.00 Newswatch. 6.30 [illegible] Report. 7.00 Artsweek. [illegible] Bassett. 1.00-5.30 a.m. Nigh[illegible] every half-hour.

Capital Radio

194m a[illegible]

6.00 a.m. Kerrygoround. [illegible] *Countdown.* 12.00 *Kenny E*[illegible] week's madness concentrate[illegible] hour musical maelstrom. [illegible] Person to Person. 4.00 Loud[illegible] Soul Spectrum. 10.00 To[illegible] 2.00 a.m. Night Flight.

هكذا من الأصل

Your savings and investments

School fees trust plan

Y TOM KYTE

SING EDUCATIONAL costs d new tax legislation have mbined over the last two years make the life of school fees ecialists very difficult. Howar, they have not yet given the battle to find the most itable way to provide for the st of a private education and sterday saw the results of C. ward and Partners' efforts to just its Trustee Scheme to sent conditions with the nching of the Howard Private ucation Trusts (PET for rt). Its purpose is to enable ents and others to put aside ital to meet, wholly or parly, future school fees. This ital is paid into a trust ich purchases, through yd's Life, deferred temary annuities where the payats coincide with the due es of the fees.

)n the surface at least the T is only slightly different m Howard's previous Trustee eme though C. Howard ms that administration has n tightened up and that the r scheme is much easier to rate for all concerned. The n difference is that while ate Duty existed it was essary for the annuity to be gned to the chosen school, emove it from the settlor's te, but since its abolition in Finance Act 1975 the ity can now be assigned to Trustee (that is Lloyds k). The main benefit of this at it allows the parent or l guardian plenty of time hoose a school. Also, it ns that he can change his l about the chosen school have the policy switched nother without any great ulty.

e actual cost savings poswith the new scheme are significantly different from e offered either by Howard's ious Trustee scheme or other Trustee schemes ently in operation. For nce, an initial payment of 0 would after about seven s allow for school fees ling £8,000 to be paid over e year period.

rhaps the most significant thing about the new scheme, however, is that it follows some very long and painstaking research by Howard into the full implications of the Capital Transfer Tax legislation and yet appears to offer no solution to the problem of how people can provide for a private education for children with whom they have no parental ties and also avoid incurring a CTT liability. This is important since about one-third of the fees paid are made by persons who are not parents.

Exemptions

Capital Transfer tax which replaced estate duty in the 1975 Finance act is chargeable on all cash transfers (outside the exemption limits of up to £15,000 in a lifetime or £1,000 in any one year) other than those from a parent to child for the purposes of education and maintenance. Even after its lengthy deliberations C. Howard seems to have arrived at the same conclusion as most other school fees specialists, that the only way a non-parent can avoid the burden of CTT is to keep his payments towards any school fees plan within the exemption limits.

Some other school fees specialists are holding out hopes that the hazy CTT legislation, will allow payments into a trust scheme, which has been registered as a charity, to be tax free. But this seems a fairly vague hope especially since several independent schools are already registered in this way.

The attitude of C. Howard and Partners and most other leading specialists, including the School Fees Insurance Agency, is that the full implications of CTT will not be known until after the Inland Revenue has actually tried to collect the tax due on school fee payments. Until then they seem to be giving the same advice, that is to keep within the exemption limits and to start any capital plan as early as possible in order that the greatest savings can be made.

Lifeguard's mixed news

ERIC SHORT

GUARD Assurance Group vent. This was the news on Thursday by Sir ny Grover, the present nan of the company. But en went on to state that the fund raising operahad produced sufficient o cover the deficit between ties and assets, it had nothing else. Consely, Lifeguard could conas a closed fund, not on any new business, but ig all contractual obligato existing policyholders. is no spare cash at it to relax the penal survalues being imposed on ors wishing to cash-in contracts.

cyholders who are receivayments from Lifeguard ose who are prepared to ith the company will find position satisfactory, at or the time being. They eceive 100 per cent. of enefits to which they are d under the contract. But hose policyholders for once is enough and wish ive Lifeguard then the is depressing. They are into the company for time yet, unless they are ed to virtually write off nvestment.

policyholders may well hat they would have been off had Lifeguard been o liquidation since under Policyholders' Protection hey would then have d 90 per cent. of their value. Mr. Victor Wood, airman-elect, said that ternative course of action een considered by the and rejected for a variety sons.

overriding factor seems that by keeping the comoing and running it down ly every policyholder eventually be paid in full nefits under his contract. ig into liquidation, policys wishing to get out cut their losses.

ther the Board of Lifemade the right decision n to debate: there are ents for each course of Mr. Wood said that the recognised that this could cause hardship in cases and that decisions ing surrender values be kept under constant . He certainly would look position at the end of the al year—June 30—and d that a more normal ler value basis would be l by 1980 at the latest.

question facing those policyholders who want out at the earliest opportunity is whether to go now, or wait until cash-in values are normalised. They must remember that until that time, premiums will have to be paid to Lifeguard. The decision depends on whether investors think that the increase in value on their contract will be more than the amount of premiums paid between now and eventual cash-in date. I must confess to not having any idea on which course of action to recommend. Investors should try to get as much information from Lifeguard as possible.

The remaining question is whether the money raised will be sufficient to keep the company solvent in the years ahead. The present margin is a slim one. Mr. Wood stated that the portfolio of Lifeguard was being switched into mainly fixed-interest stocks that matched the liabilities and was confident that this could be done quickly. He also was confident that expenses could be kept under strict control. Such a policy should ensure future solvency—the main consideration—but is unlikely to produce much profit for the with-profit policyholders.

As this section of the Lifeguard's history is closed policyholders may well reflect on the reluctance of the shareholders —many of them leading Lloyd's brokers—to do what would be considered their moral duty to see that no policyholder suffered from the troubles. They may also ask why it took so long for the Board of Lifeguard to take action when it knew that the company was heading for financial difficulties.

Fidelity

A MODICUM of good news was given this week by the Provisional Liquidator of Fidelity Life — the life company under a provisional liquidation order since last July. The Court has agreed a scheme, under the Policyholders' Protection Act, whereby interim payments can be made to certain policyholders, to whom contractual payments are due. These are annuity and withdrawal payments and death or maturity claims and the scheme will pay 70 per cent. of the amount owing by Fidelity. A letter has been sent to policyholders explaining the scheme and it emphasises that there can be no surrenders paid. Meanwhile the hearing for the liquidation of the company drags on.

Composites—recovery under way

BY ERIC SHORT

THE ANNOUNCEMENT by General Accident on Wednesday of its U.S. results for 1975 heralded the opening of the reporting season for composite insurance companies, a season which will be fully under way when both Commercial Union and Royal announcing their full results on March 1.

The 1975 results are being awaited with more than usual interest this time. The underwriting performance of general insurance business is cyclical by nature and 1974 was very much the trough of this cycle following the profitable years of 1972 and to a lesser extent 1973. But the depth of this trough came as a surprise with a turndown of £100m. in underwriting for the major composites, 1974 being a year with an exceptional number of natural disasters.

Although most of the quarterly results announced during 1975 indicated that the bottom was reached during the first half of the year, the depressing news of CU had many people wondering whether in fact the other composites were likely to have a continued poor underwriting experience and that 1975 would not after all be recovery year.

The GA figures have gone some way to reassure the market that the CU is indeed very much the odd composite out. Recovery is on the way for the other companies and the CU is experiencing an underwriting cycle that is probably 12 months out of phase with the rest.

Nevertheless, the other feature of the GA's figures is that the pace of recovery, as it affects underwriting results, is slow and variable between companies. The composites sought and for the most part obtained rate increases in the major trouble areas—U.S. and Australia—as well as pruning business in these territories. But such action takes time to reduce losses.

This is highlighted in GA's figures where although the overall 1975 losses were up from US$4.3m. to US$24m., definite improvements were appearing in the final quarter. Royal, on the other hand, has shown not only a steadily improving position over the year, but at the nine months stage had lower worldwide underwriting losses—£22.4m. against £25m.

But underwriting results are not the only factors that need to be considered in assessing the pre-tax profits of composites. Investment income plays just as important a role as was seen in 1974 when for all companies it more than offset underwriting losses, so that they were able to cover their dividend payments, Royal excepted. The expectations for improvements in such income for 1975 are very bullish.

Not only do rate increases tend to lead to lower underwriting losses, but they also tend to boost investment income because of the higher cash flow generated. The major composites were reporting premium income on average 20 per cent. higher at the half-way stage for 1975 and investment income some 15 per cent. greater.

This rise should more than offset the lower interest rates obtainable on investments last year compared with 1974. The expectations are that the rising trend in investment income will have continued strongly for 1975.

The other plus factors for composite companies are the strengthening of the asset base last year and the good track record for dividend payments. The stock market recovery, especially in equities, eased the pressure on solvency margins which some composites were experiencing at the end of 1974 and the rights issues made by all but one of the major composites reinforced the asset base to meeet the premium expansion.

Company	1975/6 High/Low p	Price 19/2/76 p	Yield %
Commercial Union	194/72	131	7.9
Eagle Star	144/55	133	5.8
General Accident	190/67	169½	4.9
GRE	225/83	206	5.8
Phoenix	240/87	222	5.7
Royal	342/106	320	6.4
Sun Alliance	470/175	433	5.5
FT-A All Share	—	—	5.3

Composites have steadily increased their dividend rates over the years. Even in the dark days of 1974 Royal kept faith with its shareholders and lifted its dividend rate by the then maximum permissible of 12½ per cent., even though it was well undercovered. The market expects that all composites, with the exception of CU, will increase dividends by the maximum possible of 10 per cent. and it considers that the Board of CU will keep the dividend unchanged, despite the likelihood of it being uncovered.

The recovery prospects of this sector were being put forward quite strongly at the time when the 1974 results were being announced and the chairmen were talking about the remedial action being taken. Yet the sector, after an initial period of euphoria, has tended to lag behind the general market recovery. Only GA has a dividend yield below the market average as given by the FT-A All-Share index.

The prospects of Royal look attractive and the shares are yielding 6.4 per cent. at the moment, while Guardian Royal Exchange yields 5.8 per cent. Analysts feel that both these companies will show good results for 1975 following the action taken over their problem areas. All companies are expected to show good figures for the U.K., but Eagle Star, the composite with the highest proportion of U.K. business, is affected by the general adverse marine experience.

Sun Alliance, a favourite company with analysts last year because of its high proportion of U.K. business and lack of involvement in the U.S. now appears to have had its expected results fully discounted in the share price.

The performance of CU last year has been the subject of some very adverse forecasts with underwriting losses being put as high as £90m. The cost of maintaining the current dividend rate will be about £21m. But for investors the time to move into a recovery situation is often before remedial action, particularly in the U.S., begins to have an effect. In the CU's case this is not expected until later this year.

Unit sales

THE REAL significance of January's unit trust sales is not only that, at £36.4m., they were the highest since June 1973, the heyday of marketing, but that the recovery since the depressed conditions of 1974 is gaining momentum. Mr. A. P. W. Simon, the chairman of the Unit Trust Association, told me that he considers that the movement has now really come back into the investor's eye. A steady source of business is coming at present from share exchange schemes, as more investors find it too expensive and time consuming to manage their own portfolios.

"I'm looking for real security. Should I invest in a unit trust, or property... or just leave my money in a deposit account?"

"With inflation the way it is, I recommend you spread your money over all three. Through a Hambro Managed Bond."

Your problem

If you are an investor you'll know how difficult it is to find a really secure home for your money these days.

The rapidly rising cost of living (23% over the last twelve months) has greatly reduced the attraction of leaving money in **savings accounts** over the long-term. The interest you earn on a savings account falls well short of the loss in the value of your capital caused by inflation.

Unit trusts can offer the kind of growth you need to protect your money against inflation, but their value can, at times, fluctuate sharply.

Our answer

In a world of inflation, real security can only come from investments that give your capital a chance to grow – such as unit trusts and property. Yet each of these investments carries with it the risk of a fall in value – particularly over the shorter term.

Most experts agree that the best way of minimising this risk, while continuing to enjoy the prospect of capital growth, is to spread your money as widely as possible – across unit trusts *and* property *and* fixed interest investments.

A simple and effective way for the private investor to do this is provided by Hambro Managed Bonds – for these Bonds now offer the widest investment spread available on any single investment, and yet you can purchase a Bond with as little as £1,000.

Investment policy

Part of the Managed Bond Fund is invested in unit trusts through the medium of the Allied Unit Trust Group. In this way the Fund has a stake in over six hundred carefully-selected companies in the UK as well as in the U.S.A., the Far East and Western Europe. This gives a spread that should have the effect of substantially reducing the effects of any problems faced by a particular company, market sector or even country.

A further part of the Managed Bond Fund is invested in prime business properties through the medium of the Hambro Property Fund. This provides a stake in well-located office, shop and industrial premises principally in the UK but also abroad – property which offers good prospects of future growth.

A further part of the Managed Bond Fund is in secure fixed-interest investments – bank deposits and gilts.

The Fund is managed by a team of experts who continually review the spread of investments in the light of changing economic prospects.

You can draw a tax-free 5% p.a.

Under the Cash Withdrawal Plan you can choose to draw 5% per annum of the amount you originally invested, in place of income. Each year sufficient of your Units will automatically be cashed in to provide this sum, which will be free of all taxes at the time of withdrawal, even for higher rate taxpayers (see note 2 below).

Your Bond will then be made up of fewer Units, but provided the Unit price increases at more than 5% per annum (net income plus capital growth), your Bond will still increase in value. You should remember however that the price of Units may at times grow by less than 5% or even go down, in which event the value of your Bond would fall.

Performance

Since the Managed Bond Fund was launched in May 1971, the offered price of Bond Units has increased by 34%. And it is significant that during the Stock Market slump of 1973/4 the price of Bond Units fell by less than half the fall shown by the Financial Times All Share Index. Since then the Bonds have already recovered to the extent that the current price is just short of an all-time high.

How to Invest

To buy Units at the current offer price of 136.0p simply send the application form below together with your cheque to reach us **not later than Thursday 26 February 1976.** After this date Units will be issued at the price then ruling.

To: **Hambro Life Assurance Limited**
Administration (Dept B), Hambro Life House, Swindon SN1 1EL. Enquiries: 01-499 0031

I wish to invest ______ (minimum £1,000) in Hambro Managed Bonds and enclose a cheque for this amount payable to **Hambros Bank Limited.**

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Surname: Mr./Mrs./Miss ______

Full first names ______

Address ______

Occupation ______ Date of birth __/__/__

Do you already hold any Hambro Life policy?

Are you now, and have you always been, in good health? ______

If not, please give or attach details. ______

Tick here if you wish to draw 5% in cash ☐

(If you leave the box blank, the income and capital will be accumulated in the Fund for you. You can at any later date start drawing cash at 5% p.a. on the accumulated amount simply by writing to the company.)

Signature ______

Date ______ | AM | FT | 01 |

Registered in London No. 865392. Registered office 51 Bishopsgate, London EC2P 2AA

1. Increasing life assurance. Hambro Managed Bonds have built-in life assurance cover. The death benefit is a multiple of the cash-in value of your Bonds depending on your age at death. Specimen examples are set out below.
Age 30—250% Age 40—190%
Age 50—130% Age 60—111%
Age 70—104%

2. Tax position. Income accumulated in the Fund is subject to tax at the life assurance company rate. It is not treated as your income for tax purposes, so that you pay no income tax on it; nor are you personally liable to basic rate income tax on any amount paid to you. You may be liable to higher rate tax and investment income surcharge on death or final cashing-in if you are then in these tax brackets, and amounts previously drawn will be taken into account, but this is calculated on advantageous terms (details available from the Company).

You are not liable to capital gains tax and do not have the trouble of keeping records. The price of Units is adjusted to allow for the Fund's own prospective liability: currently it is intended to restrict this deduction to 10% of the capital growth on properties and 5% on unit trusts.

3. How can you watch the value of your Bonds? The Fund is split into Accumulation Units which are valued weekly. The resulting offered and bid prices are published in the Daily Telegraph, Financial Times and other leading national newspapers.

4. What are Hambro Life's charges? The offered price of Units in the Fund includes an initial charge of 5% and a rounding-up charge not exceeding 1% calculated on unit trust principles. In addition, Hambro Life receives an annual charge of ½% of the value of the Fund. This covers the life assurance and all other Company charges.

5. Annual Report. An Annual Report is despatched giving a full description of all the Fund's investments.

6. How do you cash-in your Bonds? At any time you can complete a simple form and receive a cheque within a few days for the bid price Bond at the next valuation.

The death benefits come into force only upon acceptance of your application by the Company, which reserves the right to offer restricted life cover if you are not in good health or for any other reason.

Commission of 1½% will be paid on any application bearing the stamp of a bank, non-appointed insurance broker, stockbroker, solicitor, accountant or estate agent.

This advertisement is based on legal opinion regarding present law. This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Hambro Managed Bonds

Finance and the family

Flexibility key to planning

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

My father intends to farm his high quality land situated on the edge of a market town for so long as he lives, but to instruct that it be sold when he dies. I at present have no interest in the land. My own tax rate is high. What do you think is the best thing my father can do, tax wise?

The best advice that we can give you is to consider seeking professional guidance; a matter of this complexity requires a great deal of background information (including, of course, your father's wishes) before a satisfactory plan can be prepared.

As an interim measure, it might be best if your father's will does not contain an instruction to his executors to sell the farm. The option will then be open for the property to be sold or retained by the beneficiaries, as they wish when the time comes. Flexibility to adapt to changing laws and circumstances should be the keynote of all long-term planning. His solicitor can no doubt explain any alteration to the terms of his will which may be needed.

CTT and gifts to children

I wish to give my children £1,000 apiece. I know if gifts of more than £1,000 in all in a year would be subject to capital transfer tax, but what happens if I give £1,000 to my wife and she passes it on?

The law on this subject is not clear. If it was a condition of the gift that your wife passed the gift on to the children, we think the exemption from tax would be lost, but otherwise not. However, until a case comes up or the Revenue makes an unequivocal pronouncement on the matter, the answer to your question must remain doubtful.

Development land tax

I have planning permission for part of my half-acre garden for the erection of two houses. Could you tell me what is the position if I sell now, or how it might be affected if I await the introduction of Development Land Tax. When does this come into force, and what do you think I should do?

The current development gains rules are explained briefly in a free booklet (CGT10) obtainable from most tax inspectors' offices. From what you say, you will have no problems if you sell the part of your garden before April 6, as you will see from paragraph 81 on page 26 of the booklet.

Although the Development Land Tax Bill has not yet been published (at the time of writing), the Government has stated that the rate of tax will initially be 80 per cent. As the years pass, the rate will rise until, by the second appointed day under the Community Land Act 1975, it reaches 100 per cent. However, paragraph 6 of the introduction to the blue book on Development Land Tax which was published last August (Command paper 6195, ISBN 0 10 161950 2, £1.05 net) announced that the Government had decided to increase the limit of size for the owner-occupier exemption form a tenth of a hectare to an acre (roughly 4047 square metres), so you should have few problems if the sale is delayed until after the date of introduction of DLT, which is expected to be April 6. The details of the proposed exemption for owner-occupiers are set out in draft clause 12 on pages 18 to 20 of the blue book, and are explained briefly on pages 67 and 68.

In deciding what to do, you should bear in mind that the Development Land Tax Bill is virtually certain to be amended during its passage, like all taxation bills.

A protected lease

A widow is tenant of a house under a ten-year lease granted to her late husband, which expires on June 1 next. Rent is £300 a year, the landlord being liable for outside and the tenant inside. Ratcable value is £430. What is her position when the lease expires?

As this is a short lease (under 21 years) at more than two-thirds the rateable value the tenancy is protected under the Rent Act, 1968. The contractual tenancy should have been vested in the widow by an assent from her husband's personal representatives, and she will hold over as a statutory tenant after March 1, 1976.

Premium on return to U.K.

I gather from your columns that someone who has been working abroad for three years, would, on current official practice, be able to sell dollar shares with the benefit of the premium on his return to the U.K. Is this correct and if so are there any rules about the length of time for which the shares must have been held before their sale in the U.K.?

From the terms of your letter, we assume that the case you refer to is of a U.K. resident temporarily working abroad but retaining his status as a U.K. resident. In this case, any foreign currency securities acquited from overseas earnings would not be regarded as premium-worthy on return to the U.K. He would be required to deposit the securities with an authorised depositary, and they would be subject to official approval before they could be sold.

However, if the term of employment abroad was for three years or more, the restrictions would apply for only two years after return to the U.K. In these circumstances, therefore, the main restriction would be that the securities would have to be held for two years after return to the U.K. before they would attract the investment currency premium.

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

Tax claim and a trust

As trustee of a family trust I have agreed with the local Inspector of Taxes a substantial figure as an "opening tax claim" under Section 17 (3) (d) Finance Act, 1973. Will there be any advantage in this? Could you give me an example?

Yes. In accounting to the Inland Revenue for the income-tax deducted from distributions made to beneficiaries you may deduct two-thirds of the accumulated income of the trust at April 5, 1973, as well as income-tax and investment income surcharge paid on income arising after that date. All that the legislation referred to does is to recognise that such accumulated income has borne income-tax (at an arbitrary rate of 40 per cent.).

If it is assumed that the trust had accumulated income at April 5, 1973, of £600 (net) but received no income in 1973-74 or 1974-75 and wished to distribute as much as possible in 1974-75 the maximum it could pay out would be £520 (net) to a beneficiary because £80 of tax would be due to the Inland Revenue.

Distribution 1974-75 £1,000 gross less tax of	£480=£520 net	
Income-tax deducted	£480	
Less: Two-thirds of £600...	400	
Payable to the Inland Revenue	£80	

(Thus the £600 of accumulated income at April 5, 1973, is absorbed by the payment of £520 to a beneficiary and £80 to the Inland Revenue.)

If only £260 (net) had been paid out there could be set off against the income-tax of £240 otherwise due to the Inland Revenue the sum of £400, as above, leaving a balance in hand of income-tax of £160 available for set off when a further distribution is made.

(If the beneficiary is liable only to the basic rate of income-tax a repayment of the difference between it and the rate of tax actu ly deducted may be claimed.)

Remarriage and damages

I was involved in a car crash some years ago, in which my wife died. I know that in the case of women the court will take re-marriage into consideration. In view of the new Sex Discrimination Act, would remarriage by me be taken into consideration if this takes place before my insurance claim is settled?

We do not think that the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 will affect your position. Your assumption that the (actual) remarriage of a widow would not be taken into account in assessing damages is not correct. Your own remarriage would, we think, be likely to be taken into account. However, each case depends on its own particular circumstances. You would be wise to consult the solicitors who are dealing with your claim.

A way of necessity

My son was gifted a seven-acre plot of land in the middle of a farm, to which there is no access, except through the farm. What, please, are his rights in this regard?

If there is no access at all to the land conveyed to your son, he may have an easement implied by law, either under Section 62 of the Law of Property Act, 1925, or as a "way of necessity"; but this will depend on a full consideration of your son's title deeds and on the ownership of the adjacent land. He would be wise to consult a solicitor.

Prize winnings and CTT

My wife, my son and I each hold £2,000 of premium bonds and are concerned as to what might happen in relation to capital transfer tax, if one of us won a large prize. Would it be possible to overcome this difficulty by drawing up an agreement to the effect that all wins from our separate holdings should be shared by the parties to the agreement? If so, ought the Inland Revenue be informed?

It is desirable to have a written agreement such as you mention at least in the case of bonds whose winnings are to be shared between your son and either you or your wife. (Gifts between spouses are not subject to Capital Transfer Tax.) There is no need to notify the Inland Revenue of the agreement at this stage. It is not yet clear whether a prize distributed according to such an agreement would be free of Capital Transfer Tax where the bond giving rise to the prize was not purchased out of joint funds. However, even if there was no joint purchase an equal sharing agreement where equal amounts of separately purchased bonds are brought in will probably be effective to prevent Capital Transfer Tax being chargeable.

Insurance

The penalties of youth

BY JOHN PHILIP

AS MANY parents, and many sons and daughters know, the task of obtaining motor cover for the newly qualified teenage or young adult driver, is a daunting and expensive exercise. The combination of youth and inexperience shows up in individual insurers' and all market statistics, and the message derived from known claims costs is clear beyond doubt: the average 18-year-old motorist will cost insurers about twice as much as his 25-year-old neighbour and about three times as much as his 35-year-old cousin, assuming the same car, usage, cover and so on.

Probably about 10 per cent. of individual motorist policy-holders are in the 17-25 age group while another 20 per cent. are in the 25-35 age group. So both young, and youngish drivers must inevitably form a sizeable proportion of any motor insurer's book.

For the most part few insurers go out of their way to attract very young drivers, and the majority watch very carefully their rates and cover, to ensure not only that they are balancing their books for this particular group of policy-holders, but also that they are not getting a disproportionate share of them.

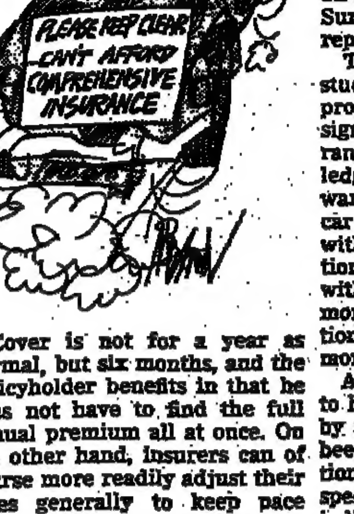
Individual insurers' underwriting rules vary, but few will provide the newly qualified teenager with more than third party cover and then only at a price probably that he can ill afford to pay: in fact less than one in every four policyholders in the 17-25 age bracket has some accidental damage cover on his or her own car.

But by age 35 the proportion of motorists buying "comprehensive" cover is around 70 per cent.

Where own damage cover is provided for the young driver, insurers usually impose an "excess" of £25 for the 21-25 group and a £50 excess for those under 21: clauses to this effect are virtually standard nowadays, and the parent insuring in his own name, but permitting his sons and daughters to drive, will find insurers applying such excesses against him in respect of any damage claims arising from use by his children.

If the motor insurance path of the average young driver is narrow, rugged and costly, how much worse can it be when he or she happens to be a student. Over the years most motor insurers have developed and nurtured a number of underwriting disinclinations (some might say prejudices) and the student figures in most motor insurers' lists of risks to avoid, along with the journalist, the bookmaker, the professional sportsman and so on.

It is not part of my purpose to-day to argue the pros and cons of such underwriting practice—but to report that the National Union of Students has just come up with a new motor insurance scheme which should make the student's task of buying motor cover a lot easier, but not necessarily less expensive. The scheme is run by Endsleigh Insurances (Brokers)—the separately constituted insurance department of the NUS—and underwritten by the Federation Mutual of Redhill.



Cover is not for a year as normal, but six months, and the policyholder benefits in that he does not have to find the full annual premium all at once. On the other hand, insurers can of course more readily adjust their rates generally to keep pace with inflation, and also that much more quickly take underwriting steps to deal with adverse features of the particular risk.

A few insurers have experimented with 6 month policies, though not in their main sales lines, while Cloverleaf, which specialises the handling of substandard motor risks that other insurers do not want, normally writes cover on a quarterly basis.

A simple rating structure is employed, with three rating areas, and three vehicle groups, the third main rating factor being the age of the proposer/policyholder. On the basic premium there is an "inexperienced driver" surchar anyone who has less year's fully licensed experience. Premiums cheap—for example, t party premium for an enced 18 year old mi living in the London p will be £58 for 6 mont the "comprehensive" be £134. However, p with increasing age an experienced 25 year respective premiums w and £45.

The price of "compr cover must be relate damage excess scale. T from other insurers' that the proportion cost the motorist has varies not only with experience but also on the location of the the accident.

Thus if our 18-year- accident in the Lond area, he will have t first £100 worth of repair himself but if h enced 25-year-old neig an accident a few mile Surrey his share of th repair bill will only

To get Student Plan student has to comple proposal form and the signature to a multip ranty. To the best of ledge and belief he warrant, for example, car will not be driven with a drunken drivi tion, with more than o without due care co more than one speedi tion, or by anyone wh more than one driving

And the young man to hot up his car will by the warranty that been no modification tion from the maker's specifications. How individual's inability signature to these does not render him —there is space for tion of material fact insurers can properly extra risk.

Because to-day's to-morrow's graduate are marketing anoth contract for graduat the literature I have, and graduate contr identical, with a pre lar rating structure suppose must have a sophical underwrit cance: perhaps a suit for a post gradua investigating motor prejudices?

Taxation

A few golden rules

A GROUP of tax specialists, mainly from the English-speaking countries, met recently in Nairobi for a valuable formal and informal exchange of views and problems. It included a fascinating discussion on "the politics of Taxation" led by the Shadow Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey Howe.

In outlining the political process of imposing taxes, he reminded us that Britain had "enjoyed" 14 Finance Acts since 1968. He brought out clearly the reversed role of the House of Commons. The Historic function of Parliament had been to control the reckless spending of extravagant Monarchs; now it was Members of Parliament themselves who were initiators of ever greater expenditure.

He brought out conflicts engendered by rising expenditure. On the one hand, politicians and tax collectors seek to find ever new means of raising revenue. New taxes are invented and the rates of old taxes are pushed as high as they will go. *In addition the situation is* complicated by political taxes, those imposed not for the good they will do the beneficiaries of the public expenditure they will finance but for the actual harm they will do to the payers. A high tax structure creates hard cases (some genuine, some not).

Concessions and exceptions are made to certain groups, perhaps because they can generate overwhelming political "clout," or perhaps even on genuine compassionate grounds. High taxes have adverse effects on economic activity and growth, and the more obviously recognisable of these tend to be tackled by specific reliefs, such as 100 per cent. first year allowances on investment, instead of *by tackling the problems at its* source. All this makes for a complex and rapidly changing tax structure and the situation is made even worse by the current battle between tax collectors and tax avoiders. Sir Geoffrey asked whether there might be a discernible relationship between the frequency with which a country changes its tax *system and the lack of success* in the economic management of the country.

Sidney Rolt, in a different session, discussed a long list of incentives offered to new investment by Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, and made comparisons with Hong Kong. He pointed out that the first three countries all had specific inducements. Hong Kong, however, had no specific inducements to new investment, and yet it attracts more than the other three put together.

The reason is simple, Hong Kong has a generally moderate tax rate and a stable and simple tax system which needs few exceptions and no special inducements. It has a stable co-operate and unbureaucratic Government. The average business man would rather pay a reasonable, certain and predictable rate of tax on his income instead of having to pick his way through a maze of legislation, some inserted by politicians in one mood and specifically designed to do him down, and others designed to encourage him to keep trading.

Although the problems of the U.K. are very different from the problems of Hong Kong, this example very much brought home the point Sir Geoffrey was making.

Sir Geoffrey discussed two points which will be familiar to readers of this column. "Tax thresholds which were originally intended to protect the lower-income groups, now catch at the heels of citizens who are deemed poor enough to qualify for welfare payments. The State gives with one hand while it takes away with the other." He referred to widows with modest investments paying tax on their income at 50p in the pound as soon as their incomes exceed one-third of average manual wages.

Again, at the other end of the income scale, he described the "poisonous brew of high marginal taxes (enlarged by inflation)." It can be shown that even without taking account of inflation, the combination of taxes on income capital can result in some British taxpayers paying taxes for more than they receive in income. (Taking account of inflation, I have shown in this column that income-tax alone now takes more than 100 per cent. of real investment income.) Recent, rather garbled reports suggest that Mr. Healey is now starting to get part of the message.

Just 200 years ago Adam Smith published his "Wealth of Nations" in the course of which he laid down *four* principles of taxation. Sir Geoffrey quotes Professor Ash Wheatcroft as laying down *eight* principles to guide tax policy. Sir Geoffrey himself proffers *ten* commandments — perhaps an acceptable rate of inflation over 200 years!

His principles are worth recording if only so that we can quote them back at a future Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer. In the past, Conservatives in Opposition have

Sir Geoffrey Howe — *Trevor Humphries*

been more forthright in their views on taxation than Conservatives *in Office*. "When the devil was sick, the devil a saint would be: when the devil was well, the devil a saint was he." However, in spite of the lessons of history, I am now reasonably optimiscic that there are prospects in due course of an intelligent tax reform in the U.K.

The ten principles are as follows:—

A sensible tax systems needs to be founded on the basis of widespread agreement of the fundamental shape and nature of society and about the legitimate purposes of taxation.

It should be the over-riding purpose of economic managers to extirpate inflation from their economy.

There needs to be widespread agreement that there is a sensible and absolutely impossible limit on the total of taxes which will be imposed.

A sensible limit of taxes can only be maintained if it is also agreed that some services, which some would like to provide collectively and pay for from the proceeds of taxation, are far better provided through a market mechanism.

The pursuit of increasing quality as an over-riding aim of a tax system must be decisively rejected.

There must be sensible acceptance of the importance of saving the legitimacy of private property, including the right to transmit that property by gift or inheritance.

There must be recognition of the folly that is involved in the loading or extending any single tax to the point where it is or is felt to represent an intolerable or unfair burden.

All temptation to introduce instant or fundamental change should be resisted like the plague.

If change is to be undertaken, then it should be focused upon only a limited number of objectives at any one time and put in hand only after prolonged and widespread consultation.

Simplicity is above all a reasonable requirement of the taxpayer.

Lest any of us still thought the consultation, Select Committees, Green Papers, White Papers, and a long period of digestion was a sure formula for a sensible tax system, Bill McDonald gave us an excellent account of the history of the Canadian tax reform. The Carter Commission after many years' deliberation produced a six volume report in 1966. Some years later there was a total reform of the Canadian tax system (although not along the lines recommended by Carter) some of the international changes only coming into force at the beginning of this year. It would be hard to conceive of a more thorough public discussion, and yet the results were disastrous.

JOHN CHOWN

CHESS SOLUTIONS

Solution to Position No. 102 (a) blocking the K-file, is right. Andersson chose (b) and fell into 1 ... B-B6? 2 RxB, QxR; 3 QxR ch, KxQ; 4 B-Q6 ch, K-N1; 5 R-K8 mate.

Solution to Problem No. 102. 1 Q-KR6. If 1 ... B-N1; 2 Q-N6, or if P-K3, 2 QxB, or if P-K4; 2 N-Q6, or if B-N6; 2 R-N5, or if B-B3; 2 Q-R3.

Toys

Playing a big market

BRITAIN'S toymakers — well, some of them—will be dangling their latest temptations before America's young next week, when the American Toy Fair is staged in New York. The U.S., needless to say, is the most lucrative, and toughest, market in toydom. Already several big wedges have been driven into it by the British, notably in the past year or so by the game Mastermind, which is furrowing consumer brows and enlarging retail bank balances on both sides of the Atlantic. Over the next few days buyers from throughout North America will be eager to see what else is on offer.

For the first time in its 73-year history, the American toy fair has reached out to include substantial representation from European manufacturers, and the best response to this new approach has come from Great Britain.

Under the auspices of the British Toy Manufacturers Association 17 British firms, including a number which have not previously participated in any U.S. toy shows, will be included in a group display at the Americana Hotel, to-morrow, in a show which lasts until mid-week.

This is, of course, only part of the broad range of British toy companies which have brought out their product line for the more than 8,000 buyers who are there for the trade show. There are several U.K. firms with permanent display space in New York's Toy Centre, which is part of the Toy Fair, too.

This is part of two weeks of intensive promotion and marketing by toy manufacturers from all over the U.S. and abroad. The American Toy Fair follows hard on the heels of the International Toy show—a trade fair which has traditionally attracted good attendance from European manufacturers.

In theory there is no duplication at the two events. The Toy Fair is devoted to toys, games, dolls and hobby models, while the International Toy Show includes heavier items, such as bicycles and a product range running as far afield as flowers.

Among the British exhibitors, a first showing in the U.S., is Pegasus Toys, with a line of handmade rocking horses. Companies which have a well established market in this country, such as Peggy Nisbet with its dolls, and Lone Star Products with a wide range of cowboy holster sets and die-cast cars and trucks, or Dean-Childsplay Toys, are also part of the exhibit set up at Americana.

The U.S. toy market, although it faced difficult times in 1974 and early 1975, had begun to show some signs of recovery by the second half of last year, and many analysts seem to feel the sector will show a substantial rebound this year. It is an *industry whose sales have nearly* tripled in the decade 1960-70, running from slightly under \$1bn. to \$2.85bn. and analysts have estimated that it may be a \$5.8bn. market by 1980.

If, indeed, 1976 is a turn around year for the industry, then it will prove an attractive market for British manufacturers. In 1974, nearly a disaster year for the toy market, the U.S. brought \$17.5m. worth of toys from Britain.

There are also some signs that may bode well for British manufacturers. Often competing at a cost disadvantage, due in part to industry tarrifs, but mostly to the high costs of shipping and packaging for U.S. markets, market penetration has been small in many instances.

But industry statistics show that although the number of children in under 13 age group —the principal toy consumers— has declined, this has been offset by a greater willingness on the part of parents, grandparents and others to spend more money on fewer children.

In addition, demographic studies suggest that the period beginning in 1980 will be the era of the "young adults," and that group will see the total amount of money available to it, in real money terms, double in the decade 1970 to 1980. This may mean that costs are becoming less of a factor for some types of toys.

Industry members have been heartily optimistic about the results of the current Toy Fair. Low year-end inventories at most of the large retail chains, and what industry members felt was a good Christmas season have buoyed hopes that buyers will be willing to commit themselves to firm orders earlier this year than, for example, they did last. Some buyers are admitting that they ordered too short last year, when the economic picture seemed so uncertain, and the 700 to 800 exhibitors at this year's fair are hoping that means better sales for their new lines.

Some industry members have also been encouraged by the turnaround at Mattel, which is the world's leading toy manufacturer and accounts for about 10 per cent. of the industry's sales. Mattel was faced with a Federal Trade Commission suit charging inaccuracies in its financial statements for the fiscal years 1971 and 1972.

The ensuing wrangle led Mattel to take a \$20m. loss in 1974. It has, however, begun to pull itself out of the rubble.

For the first nine months of fiscal 1976/77 company reported earnings from continuing operations of \$11.2m. or 67 cents a share.

One secret for success in the U.S. market is to unique product, whic market for itself. T cisely what Invicta P been able to do wit game "Mastermind." product has about Invicta's U.S. sales, year it has been on t here, pulling revent about \$2m.

What pleases Le president of Invict U.S., is that he has direct consumer a Invicta has run ads papers for "Mastern has supported print sored by individual d such as the large ret For the latter Invicta distributor an adver count allowance on t price, or pays a set outlet. It has don vision promotion, wh mainstay of marketir toy industry in the St

CANDACE CU

THE FINANCIAL TIMES, publishe Sundays and holidays. U.S. \$167.00 (air freight) \$334.00 annum. Second class postage York, N.Y.

Bonus Increases for Life Association Policyhold

UNITED KINGDOM ONLY

1. For all participating assurances and annuities

(a) Compound bonus series. The annual reversionary bonus calculated on the original sum assured/pension plus attaching bonuses:

1975	1974
£4.00%	£3.75%

(b) Closed simple bonus series

1975	1974
£4.75%	£4.50%

2. For with profits Group Pensions Policies

(a) Under the Cash Bonus Plan, a cash bonus (as deduction from premiums) as a percentage of reserve

1975 %p.a.	1974 %p.a.
£1.40	£1.20

(b) Similarly, under the Long-Term Accumulation Syster Bonus Rate of Interest of 1%, calculated on the aver daily balance for 1975 on the Deposit Account.

The Directors also announce that for participating life policies becoming payable by reason of death or maturit or after 1st January 1976, and participating annuities (othe than under Group Pensions Policies) first becoming payab on or after 1st January 1976, Capital and Retirement Bonus will be added at the following rates until further notice:-

Closed Simple Bonus Series Policies.
A Capital/Retirement Bonus of £20% of declared reversionary bonuses.

Compound Bonus Series Policies.
A Capital/Retirement Bonus of £10% of declared reversionary bonus.

The Life Association of Scotland
Reg. Office:
10 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2YH. Tel: 031-225

هكذا في الأصل

هكذا صدر الأصل

Motoring

Journey in space

BY STUART MARSHALL

[T]HOSE DRIVERS wanting a [r]eally big estate car have just [o]ne alternative to buying an [i]mport: the Ford Granada. It [f]eels like a mid-Atlantic car, [c]ombining the carrying space of [a]n American station wagon [w]ith the sharper, more elegant [h]andling of a large European [s]aloon.

Granadas come with a choice [o]f three engines—the Cortina's [fo]ur-cylinder two-litre, or a V6 [o]f 2½- or 3-litres capacity. The [3]000GL estate is Ford's flag[sh]ip, costing £4,116 with auto[m]atic transmission. Only the [G]erman-made Ghia 3000s are [m]ore expensive.

Even to-day, £4,000-plus [so]unds like a lot of money to [pa]y for a Ford, but the [G]ranada 3000GL estate is a lot [of] motor-car. Only on Ger[m]any's autobahnen can it [str]etch its legs, for the top [sp]eed is about 110 m.p.h. and it [wi]ll easily exceed 70 m.p.h. in [mi]ddle range. The transmis[sio]n, Ford's own, works very [we]ll indeed, apart from an over-[ea]gerness to kick down into [mi]ddle if the accelerator is [pr]essed quite gently at 35-40 [m].p.h.

[L]ike an American car, it is [qu]iet to ride in and undemand[ing] to drive. The engine starts [ins]tantly on its automatic [cho]ke and the transmission [sel]ector need never be moved [out] of "D" unless conditions [are] exceptional.

[O]ne expects a 3-litre car to [cru]ise in near silence on the [mo]torway at 70 m.p.h. and the [Gr]anada does not disappoint. [Tyr]e and wind noise is subdued. [Drive]d fairly gently, it returns [2]1 m.p.g., but town driving [and] short runs bring this down [to] 18-19 m.p.g., especially if you [ma]ke too much use of the lively [acc]eleration.

[E]ach time I drive a Granada [I li]ke the car better than before, [tho]ugh I still have reservations [abo]ut the suspension. The [est]ates are more firmly sprung [tha]n the saloons, but the ride is still rather soft. The independent rear suspension is a doubtful advantage in an estate car, because ground clearance is seriously reduced by a heavy load. The Granada still rides very comfortably on farm tracks; perhaps too comfortably, because if you abuse its tolerance of rough roads the suspension bottoms with quite a dramatic crash.

It must be for this reason that Peugeot fits non-independent rear suspension to the back of its big 504 estate although the 504 saloon is all-independent. What the Granada estate really wants is *self-levelling* suspension, to keep its attitude and ground clearance constant regardless of load. And perhaps that would get rid of the restlessness of the rear suspension. One is conscious all the time that it is working and the rising and falling, though gentle, does not agree with some rear-seat passengers.

This criticism apart, the Granada GL estate is a model Ford has every right to be proud of. It is well mannered, with light and accurate power-assisted steering and effective brakes. It is exceptionally good looking for an estate; the extra space at the back balances the heavy front-end styling better than the saloon body.

The interior is tastefully done, with door trim, seats, fascia, steering wheel and carpets carefully colour matched. The dark brown vinyl roof on my test car I could have done without; a permanently mounted roof rack, like the Opel Rekord estate's, would be preferable.

With the rear seat in place, the load platform is a massive 3 ft. 9 in. deep and nearly 5 ft. wide, narrowing to 3 ft. 10 in. between the wheel arches. Spring struts raise the tailgate effortlessly. If the back seat is folded down, the load floor is a carpeted expanse nearly 6 ft. 6 ins. long. European estate cars do not come any bigger.

Ford Granada GL Estate

There are no projecting tailgate hinges outside or inside, and nothing hanging down for a bored dog to nibble. That is a rare feature for an estate car. Surprisingly so, for many people buy estates because they prefer not to share car seats with muddy dogs.

The spare wheel is under the load floor, which is presumably why Ford cannot offer an extra backward-facing seat in the Granada.

I think that is a pity and I am sure it costs Ford sales. One reason for the popularity of the Peugeot 504 and Volvo estates with parents of big families is that they provide seats for five or six children.

The driving position is excellent and the Granada estate is much easier to park than the saloon. The tailgate marks the extreme rear; the saloon's high rear window makes everything beyond it invisible.

Apart from the rear window wash and wipe switches, which are hidden under the fascia, the control layout is ideal. The combined winkers, wipers, dip and flash lever is identical to that used by Mercedes. Instrumentation is clear and easy to read—but can anybody seriously want a rev. counter in an automatic estate car. A good clock would be more useful, especially as the little one now fitted is down near your left foot and difficult to see.

The same space and carrying capacity are offered by the 2-litre or 2½-litre Granada estates. They have lower, though still more than adequate performance, and prices start from £3,048.

Some light in the fog

WHEN VISIBILITY fades in daylight due to fog, snow or heavy rain, it has always been common sense to switch on dipped headlamps. This time last year it became a legal requirement. A motorist who fails to switch on dipped headlamps in conditions of seriously reduced visibility can be fined up to £100.

But the law is so badly enforced that it might as well not exist. On two mornings during the past week conditions on the A21 Sevenoaks and Tonbridge By-passes were clearly bad enough to call for dipped headlamps. Vehicles were nearly invisible at 200-300 yards due to a combination of mist, drizzle and road spray.

Only one in ten had dipped headlamps on. Perhaps one in five had parking lights. The other 40 per cent. were lightless. Two poice cars — one a Rover 3500 on traffic patrol — set a thoroughly bad example by having parking lights only, not dipped headlamps.

Why is the law so widely ignored? Despite heavy publicity a year ago, at least one motorist in three seems not to know that it exists. Another reason is that the motorist himself has to decide when conditions justify the use of headlamps.

On this point, opinions genuinely vary. But a large number of drivers seem to believe that if they can see where they are going without lights, then no lights are needed.

This is to misunderstand the whole purpose of the regulations. It is a question not of seeing, but of being seen.

Volvo introduced "day notice lights" in Sweden early in 1975. All Volvo 244 and 264 cars sold here have had them since last October. They look like extra-bright parking lights, come on automatically with the ignition, and go out when headlamps are turned on. Unlike dipped headlamps, they can be seen from the side, do not dazzle on wet roads and eliminate the hazard of driving inadvertently without lights.

Here the concept is so unfamiliar that Volvo Concessionaires have had to write to Chief Constables explaining what "day notice lights" are all about. Some police patrols have actually stopped 1976 Volvo drivers and told them to "turn those parking lights off." That would be good advice to non-Volvo drivers in poor visibility—provided it were followed by the instruction "and put your headlamps on instead." Starting, perhaps, with their colleagues in Kent Constabulary.

Golf

Rough injustice

BY BEN WRIGHT

IT WILL be surprising if the Andy Williams San Diego Open, played over the clifftop municipal courses at Torrey Pines in California last week-end, is not the last USPGA Tour event to be played throughout under winter rules, where the player can choose the lie he prefers. There was a justifiable feeling of resentment among the competitors that officials saw fit to extend the privilege of lifting, cleaning and placing the golf ball within one club's length through the green to the final 36 holes of the tournament, which appeared on nationwide television.

But only my good friend, Hale Urwin, has the courage to make public his considerable anger. He was widely quoted for tagging the event the "Tee it up Open," and I am in wholehearted agreement that the sight of top-class professionals moving their golf balls in the rough to avoid being stymied by trees and shrubs, and placing them repeatedly until they were teed up satisfactorily instead of being invisible made a mockery of the sport, and what is more important seriously abused what is regarded as the spirit of the game.

After five inches of rain in the previous week had reduced the tougher South and the better drained, newer North courses to a distinctly sloppy condition, something had to be done if the tournament was to start punctually on Thursday morning. It had been quite impossible to know the fairways for several days. No one, least of all the players denied the need for playing preferred lies on the fairways. What Urwin and every other professional to whom I talked resented was the decision to extend the privilege to include the rough.

Professional golfers are never slow to use the rules to their advantage, and it did not take them long to realise that they were better off at several holes to drive into the rough on purpose, secure in the knowledge that the ball could be moved clear of any hazard, except bunkers, that intervened. It could also usually be teed up more efficiently on long grass than short. But even worse than this degrading spectacle was the sight of golfers using their drivers—quite legally I hasten to add — to measure the permitted relief of one club's length from deep rough into the shorter fringes around the greens, particularly at par three holes, to transform tricky chip shots into easier putts. The only point they had to bear in mind when making this move was not to move the ball closer to the hole. There were many lengthy and rather sheepish conferences about the angles and distances thus involved among the various threesomes to make certain that justice was seen to be done by the tele-viewing millions.

At "my" television hole, the 202 yards 16th, with its green perched on the top of the cliff 200 feet above the busily noisy Pacific Ocean, and continually, if silently "buzzed" by a new breed of airborne lunatics, the hang gliders. Peter Oosterhuis used this ploy to ensure salvaging his par when lying in outright second place on Saturday afternoon, blushing with embarrassment as he did so. In fact Peter left his putt 6 feet short from the fringe, but recovered his composure to hole out the next. His ability to get up and down in two shots from around the green is as formidable as it ever was, and as it still needs to be too often. Oosterhuis told me the next morning that he had been discomfited at turning a tricky chip into a putt in the previous round, but that he had done so because he knew for certain that everyone else would do the same. I was able to assure him that they frequently did.

The official explanation for retaining the winter rules for the final two rounds on the South course, after three good drying days before the week-end, was that the fairways were still too wet to be mown, or clearly defined by whitewashed lines.

Hale Irwin

I have always maintained the whole point of golf was to strike the ball into the fairway or on to the putting surface. That excellent phrase "the rub of the green" covers admirably the instance of the golfer who misses the fairway and finds his golf ball buried in deep rough, while only a yard away, and perhaps further from the fairway, the golf ball of his opponent or rival is perfectly teed up.

The farce at Torrey Pines more than ever reinforces my long standing belief that the golf ball should always be played as it lies. There should be no such thing as preferred lies and winter rules, or relief from casual water, ground under repair, holes made by burrowing animals, loose impediments, temporary obstruction, piles of grass cuttings, tyre tracks, or anything else the golfer chooses to dream up. Once the ball is struck from every tee it should not be touched by hand while in play until it is removed from every hole. If this was indeed the case the many thousands of words in the book of rules would be thankfully decimated, requests for rulings would be superfluous, and play speeded up significantly.

Yachting

Homebound

[GRE]AT BRITAIN II, the leader [in t]he FT Clipper Race, still [is] set to beat the 106-year-old [clip]per record from Sydney to [the] Downs, is literally rolling [her] way home into the western [appr]oaches on the front of a [hig]h westerly gale 480 miles west of Lisbon. To beat the [clipper da]y record she must reach [the] Dover finishing line by the [earl]y hours of next Saturday, [Febr]uary 28 but her skipper, [Rob] Mullender, now estimates [that] if they maintain their [pres]ent progress they could [arriv]e next Thursday (February [26]) — weather permitting.

[Ye]sterday morning the yacht [was] 1,200 miles from Dover and [had] covered 250 miles, or more, [durin]g the previous 24 hours. [B]ad visibility and the rough [cond]itions made the fixing of [an ac]curate position difficult as [the y]acht, surging off the tops [of w]aves at up to 20 knots, [forc]ed her way along the [short]est course for home. This [is] in excess of her maximum [desig]ned hull speed, which is [abou]t 14 knots, and is only [achie]ved by surfing.

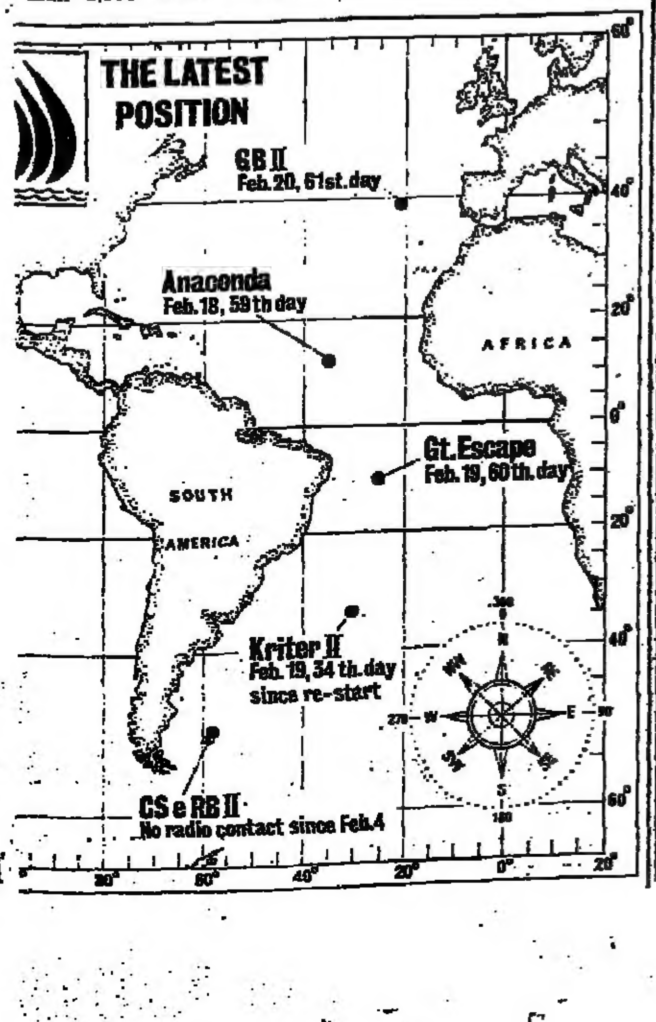
[Th]e Australian ketch Ana[cond]a II, which hugged the [South] American coast line during her passage through the [South] Atlantic, has covered only [...] miles in the past nine days, [havin]g obviously met calms off [Recif]e, the most easterly port [of Br]azil.

[Wh]ile the Australians, now [more] than 1,500 miles behind the British crew, maintain a track well to the west of that taken by Great Britain II, the Dutch crew of The Great Escape still seem to be keeping to a photocopy of the British track and are averaging a steady 150 miles per day.

The impressive pace set by the French across the Southern Ocean from Sydney to Cape Horn, where they had bettered the British time by almost five days following their re-start from Australia, appears to have slowed as Kriter II heads north through the South Atlantic and on Thursday they were only 2½ days better than the British, but much will depend on the speed at which they can pass through the Doldrums and the weather they find in the North Atlantic during March. Although technically 61 days out from Sydney, if the time of the official start last December 21 is taken, the French determination to better the time set by the British is to be admired.

One factor that is encouraging the French is that several of the crew are top-class rugby players and they are determined to be in Paris on March 20 for the match between France and England. If Great Britain finishes next Thursday the French will have to reach Dover by March 14 to beat them which is about the time that the Dutch crew can be expected.

ALEC BEILBY



MOTOR CARS

NORMAND (Mayfair) Ltd
127 Park Lane, London, W.1.
Tel: 01-629 5831.
SOLE LONDON DISTRIBUTOR
YOUR NEW MERCEDES IN 1976
As there is a national shortage of Mercedes-Benz Cars at this time, we have agreed, in fairness to the franchise not to advertise our stock.
However, may we suggest that you telephone us to see if, perhaps, we can offer for immediate or early delivery the model of your choice.
A member of the Normand Group of Companies

FOR HIRE

BMW. Representatives for the City of London. Sales and service under one roof. First Front Garages Ltd., Vauxhall Cross. Tel. 01-735 5952.

ROLLS-ROYCE SILVER CLOUD Motor Car wanted from private party, immediate decision, please telephone Nottingham 250614 anytime.

RANGE ROVER HIRE. Tow Bars. Unlimited mileage. Insurance included. Wadham Stringer Ltd., Devizes 5303. Taunton 88991.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Your Logo or Message on Suede or Leather Keyrings
Etched in up to 5 colours and mounted on genuine brown suede or black leather key fob. Ideal goodwill gifts. Effective mobile sales aids. 95p. each plus V.A.T. (min. order 120)
Send letterhead request for free sample and colour brochure to:- London Paperweights Ltd., Dept. KR01 47A Hays Mews, London W1X 7RT. Tel: 01-409 0945.

FOR SALE

PHOTOGRAPHIC & AUDIO EQUIPMENT RETAILERS
Established business trading from excellent shop. Multiple position in busy town centre—Sussex. Very low rent. Good future potential. Present T/O £173,000 p.a.
Further details write Box E.7460, Financial Times, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

PERSONAL

CANCER RESEARCH
Your support of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's urgent investigation of all forms of cancer, including leukaemia, is needed now. The Fund, the largest independent cancer research centre in Europe, relies solely on voluntary contributions. Please send a donation or "In Memoriam" gift to:
IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND,
Dept. 177F, P.O. Box 123,
Lincoln's Inn Fields,
London WC2A 3PX.

ROYAL ASCOT
Private Box required for Royal Ascot, June 15-19 1976.
Please reply giving full details of cost etc. to Box E.7455, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

LEBANON—DIRECT RELIEF. 100,000 innocent people are homeless in cold weather. £2 will feed a family for one week. We guarantee that every penny given will be converted into food and given to certified needy families within two weeks of receipt through experienced welfare workers, without any loss or deduction for administration. We have already sent £10,000 but more help is desperately needed. Help is given on basis of need only without regard to ethnic race or creed. Send your gift please to the Rev. Dr. Irvonmy Morgan, M.A., B.D., Chairman, Lebanon Direct Relief Fund, Bible Lands Society (Interdenominational)—Est. 1854), The Old Kiln, High Wycombe, Bucks.

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL
£1,900,000 Bills offered and issued 21st January, 1976, due 21st April, 1976, at average rate of 9.984 per cent. Applications totalled £11,400,000. These are the only Bills outstanding.

HUGE DISCOUNTS
TYPEWRITERS
PORTABLE STANDARD ELECTRIC
CALCULATORS
ADDING MACHINES
DICTATING MACHINES & PHOTOCOPIERS
SALE PRICES
Send now for 1976 Catalogue
NEW AND USED OFFICE MACHINES
BENNETT TYPEWRITERS LTD.
St. Leonards Road, Bournemouth
18 Commercial Road, Southampton
87 Fisherton Street, Salisbury
108 East Street, Bristol
160 Salisbury Road, Cardiff

Readers' Protection Scheme—
Mail Order Advertising
With effect from 1st April, 1975, National newspapers have set up a Central Fund to refund monies sent by readers in response to mail order advertisements placed by mail order traders who fail to supply goods or refund the money and who have become the subject of liquidation or bankruptcy proceedings. This arrangement does not apply to any failure to supply goods advertised in a catalogue or direct mail solicitation. These refunds are made on a voluntary basis on behalf of the contributors to the Fund and the readers' claims are limited to the extent of the Central Fund. The Fund will be administered by the Newspaper Publishers Association on behalf of the contributors.
For the purpose of the Scheme:—
(a) Mail Order Advertising is defined as direct response advertisements, display or postal bargains, where cash has to be sent in advance of goods being received. Classified advertising is excluded.
(b) Classified advertising is defined as advertising that appears under a "Classification" heading (excluding postal bargain features) or within the classified columns or sections of the newspapers concerned.
In the unhappy event of the failure of a mail order trader, readers are advised to lodge a claim with the newspapers concerned within three months from the date of the appearance of the advertisement. Any claim received after this period may be considered at the discretion of the NPA.
The establishment of this Fund enables you to respond to these advertisements with confidence.

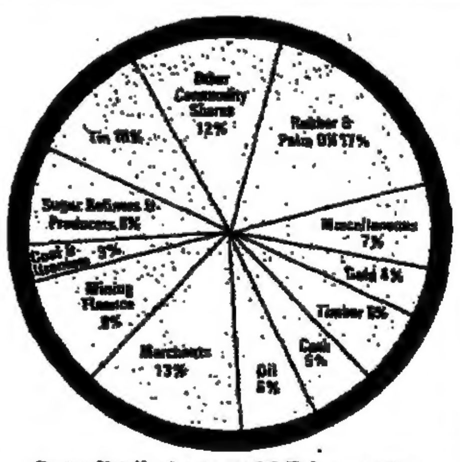
COMMODITY SHARES
A practical way of investing in this important sector.

Basic commodities are essential to most production processes and of fundamental importance in economic expansion. For this reason many investment advisers maintain that part of every portfolio should be invested in companies engaged in producing and marketing commodities.

On account of its international nature, such investment has shown itself to be a hedge against currency uncertainties and has the additional advantage of providing a reasonable level of income.

The recent background
Until recently, the commodity share sector has been overshadowed by the effects of the recession in world industrial activity over the last two years. During this time most industries have been running down stocks of raw materials, resulting in lower demand and sharp falls in the prices of many basic commodities.
Now, however, commodity prices appear to be stabilising and in some cases are already showing early signs of a recovery.

The outlook for commodity shares
We believe that the shares of commodity-producing companies now offer an attractive investment opportunity.
Expansionary economic policies are being introduced in the U.S.A., Japan and Europe which are expected to establish the basis for a revival in international trade during the coming year. Indeed a recovery in economic activity already appears to be underway in the U.S.A. and Japan.
This recovery will produce a corresponding increase in demand for raw materials as industries rebuild their inventories to support increased production. This can reasonably be expected to push commodity prices higher in due course. Moreover in the longer term, to meet higher demand, new sources of supply will have to be brought into production. And since, at present price levels, producing new supplies would in many cases be uneconomic, commodity prices will have to rise high enough to support the necessary increase in production.
Even at current levels of output, a higher level of prices will reflect favourably on the earnings of companies producing commodities. With production rising, the effect on earnings should be still greater, despite the additional taxes and export duties which some countries have introduced.



Sector distribution as at 12th February 1976.

Ebor Commodity Share Unit Trust
Investment in the commodity share sector requires considerable expertise and continuous monitoring by professional managers, since share prices can be volatile and supervision is needed on a day-to-day basis. Because of this, direct investment poses particular problems for the private investor.
Ebor Commodity Share Unit Trust represents a practical and efficient way of making an investment in commodities in a single transaction. The fund is invested in the shares of over 100 companies producing and marketing basic commodities and is also widely diversified in terms of geographic areas.

Trust record
Since the trust was formed in 1965 to 18th February 1976, the unit offer price has risen by 162.4%. Over the same period the F.T. Actuaries All-Share Index has risen by 75.3%. The fund is currently valued at £26 million.
The offer price of Commodity Share units on 18th February 1976 was 65.6p each, giving a current estimated gross starting yield of £5.48% per annum.
Remember the price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.
You should regard your investment as a long-term one.
This is particularly important with an investment in commodity shares, where prices can be especially volatile and liable to more rapid fluctuations than equities in general.

How to invest
To make an investment, please complete and return the coupon below, together with your cheque. You will be allocated units to the full value of your remittance, calculated to two decimal places at the offer price ruling on receipt of your application.
If you are in any doubt over whether such an investment is appropriate to your particular needs, we suggest you consult your professional adviser.
Professional advisers should contact Save & Prosper Services on 01-831 7601. This is the company set up exclusively to assist professional advisers by providing information and guidance on the use of Save & Prosper Group products.

A MEMBER OF THE SAVE & PROSPER GROUP
Application for a lump-sum purchase of
COMMODITY SHARE UNITS
Ebor Securities Limited, 4 Great St. Helens, London EC3P 3EP. Tel: 01-551 0092.
Registered in England No. 788728. Registered office as above.
To purchase units please complete and return this form, either directly or through your bank, stockbroker, solicitor, accountant or qualified insurance broker, together with your remittance. We will acknowledge receipt of your application and remittance and will normally despatch a certificate for the units within 14 days. Cheques should be made payable to "Ebor Securities Limited".
Please issue to me Ebor Commodity Share units to the value of £ calculated at the offer price ruling on receipt of this application. (Minimum initial investment £250.) A remittance is enclosed.
Full Name(s)
BLOCK CAPITALS
Address
AGENT'S STAMP
I declare that I am over 18 and am not resident outside the UK or other Scheduled Territories and that I am not acquiring the above units as the nominee of any person resident outside these Territories.
Signature
Date
209/FT

GENERAL INFORMATION
Trust aim The aim is to provide a portfolio of shares in companies engaged throughout the world in the production and marketing of commodities.
Units are easy to buy Units may normally be bought and sold on any working day. However, in exceptional circumstances the Managers reserve the right to suspend price quotations pending their revaluation. The minimum initial investment is £250 (£50 for subsequent purchases).
And to sell The Managers will normally buy back units, free of commission, at not less than the bid price calculated on the day your instructions are received, in accordance with a formula approved by the Department of Trade. They may also be sold back through an authorised agent who is entitled to charge commission.

EBOR Commodity Share Unit Trust

Travel

A city where time stands still

BY PAUL MARTIN

JUST AS Big Ben symbolises London, and the now somewhat ageing Eiffel Tower has become synonymous with Paris, so the exquisitely-preserved mediaeval city of Bruges has for centuries past enjoyed a built-in logo in its graceful Belfry tower. From there the carillon rings out over Market, the central square, and over the inter-connecting network of canals that still remain very much as they were at the time when the city was at the height of its power.

Unlike Vienna, where the older generation still looks back to the period when the Hapsburgs exercised dominion over the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the decline of Bruges belongs to a more distant past and, after slumbering peacefully over the intervening centuries, the city has only relatively recently acquired a new sense of civic pride, incorporating many outlying districts into the Greater Bruges of the 70s.

That rapid decline in power and influence was largely brought about when the River Zwin silted up and Bruges was cut off from the sea. Zeebrugge—Bruges-on-the-Sea—took over its earlier functions as a port and Bruges became a dead city or, in the perhaps more graphic French phrase, "La Ville Morte."

There is no place near-at-hand in Europe to which I have returned more frequently, during the last 20 years, each visit enhanced by the knowledge that a stay of even a couple of days will reveal some previously undiscovered delight, a small Madonna set on a ledge at a street corner that had earlier escaped my notice, or finding that a few more houses, built in authentic Flemish style, have been restored to their former glory.

In the very best sense Bruges is conservation mad and I only wish I could say as much for other cities, where the modern developer has bull-dozed all before him. No garish neon lights and flashing advertising slogans detract from the stillness of the narrow cobbled streets.

In 1975, in celebration of European Architectural Heritage Year, the civic authorities did not announce a grandiose and spectacular programme but, instead, added a little more impetus to the continuing and time-consuming task of refurbishing a few more old houses.

I still look forward to catching a first glimpse of the timeless towers of Bruges dominated by the graceful outlines of Notre Dame, the more squat contours marking out the *Cathedral of St. Sauveur*.

Then there is the delicate tracery of the Belfry, now happily restored and spiralling towards the heavens free from the encumbrances of scaffolding.

Bruges, as the visitor sees it, presents two very different faces. In high summer it can become crowded as coaches from all over Europe discharge their human cargoes for a few brief hours. The trees along the canal banks, in full summer leaf, provide vivid touches of colour as the sun, reflected in their shade on the now clean waters of the canals, offsets the warmth of the time-mellowed brick. *Then, in the late evening*, in the subtle play of the floodlights, it becomes a fairy city and the former dock becomes transformed into the Lake of Love. The swans, gathering on the banks around the entrance to the Béguinage, are more in evidence when the customers are more numerous.

Even so, I infinitely prefer off-season Bruges when the mists, swirling around the canals, contribute to a real feeling of the past and when their city belongs once again to the Brugeois. There is often the added bonus, on a winter morning, of waking up to a pattern of fitful sunshine from the cloud-flecked Flemish sky, bathing the noble mansions that once housed the wealthy merchants and the embassies in a diffused but brilliant light.

Enchanting as the medieval city is at all times, the countless museums and galleries are less crowded in the low season and I know of nowhere else in Europe where, after seeing the priceless collection in the Memling Museum in St. John's Hospital, you need only cross the street to Notre Dame to find there a somewhat severe Michelangelo Madonna and the simple beauty of the little chapel that houses the tombs of Mary of Burgundy and Charles the Bold.

That policy of conservation is very much in evidence at the local Holiday Inn. It is discreet and blends in harmoniously with its surroundings. Furnished in Flemish style, with its own indoor heated swimming-pool, it is literally built within a deconsecrated convent with every stone of the original walls preserved. An adjoining chapel is still in use and the old convent has to-day become a fashionable centre for wedding receptions.

One practical point worth mentioning is that the City Tourist Office will arrange accommodation but, if you plan a visit in high season, do try to book well in advance.

Further information: Belgian National Tourist Office, 66 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4RB. Belgian Travel Service, 53 Chester Square, London SW1. Bruges City Tourist Office, 1 Markt, 8000-Bruges, Belgium. North Sea Ferries Ltd., King George Dock, Hedon Road, Hull HU9 5QA. Sealink Travel, Inclusive Tours Section, Victoria Station, London, SW1V 1JX. Time Off, 2a Chester Close, Chester Street, London SW2X 7BQ. Townsend Thoresen, P.O. Box 12, Dover CT16 1LD. Victor Travel, 63, Church Street, Enfield, Middlesex.

Your weekend £: Austria 36.30, Belgium 80.35, France 8.95, Italy 1,670, Greece 75.75, Spain 131, Switzerland 5.12, U.S. 2.02. Source: Thomas Cook.

Now for the week-ending

BELT TIGHTENING is all very well, but after a few weeks of deep winter and a couple of bouts of 'flu, who can be blamed for asking "whatever happened to *le Weekend*." Well, its alive, not particularly flourishing perhaps, but alive. Cynic by nature I have never actually believed that going away for the weekend is cheaper than staying at home—I do not notice the hotelier paying my rates or mortgage—but there are some bargains around.

The summer season is still some months away so there are still bargains to be had. "Best buys" are motels or hotels on the fringe of busines cities, where as little as £8 will buy you a place for two nights. A couple of years ago I spent a splendid weekend riding on the windswept sands of North Yorkshire while staying in a Trust Houses Forte motel at Teesside (cost now is £17 for two nights full board). A little further up the cost scale you can luxuriate in the pleasures of Chewton Glen Hotel at New Milton in the New Forest for a little under £60 for the weekend.

Chewton Glen is one of the British Tourist Authority Commended Country Hotels, properties which range considerably in price, but which all have something special about them. The new Commended Hotel list (30p) just published is a useful aid to holiday planning.

Further information. British Tourist Authority, 64, St. James's Street, London SW1A 1AF. English Tourist Board, 4, Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0DU. Scottish Tourist Board, 23, Ravelston Terrace, Edinburgh, EH4 3EU. Wales Tourist Board, Welcome House, Llandaff, Cardiff CF5 2YZ. Details of week-ends in London can often be had from British Rail stations. Other help from: Chewton Glen Hotel, New Milton, Hampshire. Trust Houses Forte, 166, High Holborn, London, WC1V 6PF.

ARTHUR SANDLES

Gardening

Bulbs for winter glow

BY A. G. L. HELLYER

SNOWDROPS which were already beginning to flower at the end of January, were temporarily put into cold storage by the snow and are only now really getting into their stride again. So, in south-east England anyway, this looks like being an exceptionally extended season for them. That suits me well for they are among my favourite winter flowers and I only wish some of the better varieties were more freely available at sensible prices. It does seem ridiculous that it should still be necessary to charge from 50p per bulb upwards for old varieties like *S. Arnot*, *Magnet* and *Straffan*, and that even some species such as *Galanthus byzantinus*, *G. caucasicus* and *G. ikariae* should cost anything from around 30p to over £1 per bulb.

I suppose it is because there is no large potential market for them, and so nothing to attract the big commercial bulb nurseries. Only a few small-scale specialists have ever been interested in the best varieties and the demand for them has always been sufficient to prevent any sizeable stocks being worked up.

There are, however, a few good snowdrops which are not too difficult to come by. The broad leaved, large flowered species *Galanthus elwesii* and *G. latifolius* can be found at around 3p to 4p per bulb, though oddly enough *G. elwesii* is not one that normally increases readily. Its relatively cheap price is due to the availability of bulbs collected in some parts of the Middle East where it grows wild. Also, unlike many snowdrops, both broad leaved species prefer sunny places and are not woodland plants like our native *G. nivalis*.

A fine snowdrop that spreads at a great rate is a large-flowered form of *G. nivalis* named *Atkinsii*. Its flowers are as large and almost as well formed as those of the most expensive hybrids, and athough not exactly cheap, it can be purchased at around 15p per bulb. Nine of these planted in the next few weeks about 9 inches apart could reasonably be expected to produce a solid half square yard of the loveliest snowdrops imaginable in three or four years' time, with, of course, ever-increasing displays in each of the intervening years.

This is the right time to buy snowdrops. The common kind can be purchased as dry bulbs in September and so can its double-flowered form, but it is neither the best time nor the best way to purchase even these cheap varieties. March is the ideal month to move snowdrops, as growing plants complete with leaves. All the really good specialists will ony send them out then. Order them now and plant them directly they arrive and they will get off to a flying start and you will already have progeny of your own by next flowering season.

Snowdrops

As the snowdrops fade, the crocuses take over. Some of the very early kinds, such as *Crocus imperati*, are, in fact, already over, and others such as *C. susianus* and *C. tomasinianus* are already open or opening. But the main flush of crocus colour is still to come, at any rate in my cold part of the world. I look forward to it as much as to the snowdrops, and I already have a foretaste of it in various pans planted in the autumn and now fully out in my sunny verandah. My policy is to buy a few varieties every year, grow them in pans the first season and then plant them out, so that I always have some early flowers to enjoy under cover and am constantly increasing my outdoor stock, unless, of course, the mice or voles eat them.

To most people, I suppose, the word crocus conjures up visions of the large-flowered Dutch hybrids which will shortly be making huge carpets of colour in various public parks. There is no denying that these most magnificent of c... but they are only a fra... the full crocus story embraces a number of ... and an even greater nur... garden varieties selecte... them.

The Dutch crocuses h... changed the natural grac... species for the size so ... of hybrids. They are m... plants dependent upon ... their maintenance and ... to exist in the wild, ... many can be naturalis... successfully provided t... neither severely overgr... deprived of their foliage ... it is ready to die down ... are usually purchased ... ture or to colour, but t... numerous named ... which cost a bit more ... worth it. My favouri... *Jeanne d'Arc*, white, *P...* pale lilac striped with ... *Paulus Potter*, all pur... *Golden Yellow*.

The species, by cont... come from the wild ar... can be almost as inde... in the garden as in thei... habitats. *Crocus toma...* from Yugoslavia can ... almost a weed, sprea... little silvery lavender ... far beyond their startin... If you want a crocus t... this is the one to cho... its colour is a little wish... Two garden forms of i... *Whitewell Purple* an... *Giant* are a good de... colourful but less self-... *Crocus chrysanthus*, ... also comes from south... Europe, has been so ... with varieties that ... whether to-day it would... sible to buy what botar... the "type."

There are all colo... mixtures of colours fro... cream and pale blue t... purple or yellow stri... bronze. All have chu... flowers which make a ... dous display without e... in the least vulgar, ... have nice names li... Killer, Cream Beauty, ... and Snowbunting. Zwanenburg is not so ... to the ear but it one o... to look at, so do not ...

Finally, for clear ... yellow, plant *Crocus a...* and *C. susianus*, the la... listed as *Cloth of Go...* suits it well. The flo... not big but they are v... produced and for ... there is nothing in th...

Surround yourself with four fabulous seas surrounded by four thousand years of history.

Ask your travel agent about your unique holiday in Israel, or send this coupon for further information to the Israel Government Tourist Office, 59 St. James's Street, London SW1A 1LL.

Name

Address

ISRAEL

FT/B2

TRAVEL

FOR THE MORE DISCERNING HOLIDAYMAKER
LENNOX COUNTRY CLUB HOTEL
Superbly situated at the fabulous resort of
ESTORIL — PORTUGAL

A small British-owned hotel to which the very best in food, comfort and service brings return guests year after year. Heated pool, sun terraces and gardens. Golf, tennis, horse riding. Beach and shops only minutes away. All rooms have private bath, etc. Guests transported from and to Lisbon airport, and the golf club.

From £90 Feb./Mar., £105 Apr./June using only scheduled flights from Heathrow.

Write or phone for brochure and details:
L. W. Morland Ltd., Langham House, 308, Regent Street, London, W1R 5AL. Tel. 01-580 8417 (Miss O'Boyle).

THE SPANISH CITIES

Madrid, Granada, Seville and Santiago de Compostella are among the Spanish cities listed in our booklet. There are also suggesions for two and three centre holidays coupling the cities with Spanish seaside resorts. Only first class and de luxe hotels are used. Travel is by scheduled flights, and our arrangements can be amended to fit your exact requirements. Prices range from £223.00 for the fortnight. May we send you details?

HAYES & JARVIS (TRAVEL) LTD.
6, Harriet Street, Belgravia, London, S.W.1.
Tel: 01-235 4060 or 8675.

Holiday Study Tours in Britain
ALBION ITINERARIES
1 Belitha Villas
London N1 1PE
01-607 3836

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

FRANCE. Choice of villas, Beaulieu, Cap Ferrat and Eze, from £75 pe 2 weeks, to £200 with pool. Palmer and Parker Holidays, 1 Fore Street, Totnes, Devon (0803) 864477.

HOTELS

ASHLEY COURTENAY
RECOMMENDED HOTELS

All are good value for money as costs continue to rise. The new 1976 Edition of "Let's Halt Awhile in Great Britain" personally describes over 1,500 hotels. Here is a most rewarding gift and a mine of information for your summer holiday, honeymoon, weekend break or business conference. £2.60 from book stores or direct from the Author, 16 (D) Little London, Chichester, Sussex, plus 48p postage in U.K.

ARGYLL, Scotland
BALLACHULISH HOTEL. Beautiful situation, ideal for touring Oban, Glencoe, Fort William districts. 35 bedrooms (16 with priv. bath). Good Scottish fare. Cocktail bar. Garage. Tel. 239.

NR. EDINBURGH, GULLANE
GREYWALLS. Charming, secluded Lutyens House. Easy reach of city, facing Muirfield Links. Lovely garden. Tennis court. Good food, wine. Tel. Gullane 842144.

FALMOUTH, S. Cornwall
THE FALMOUTH HOTEL *** Elegant and Luxurious with superb views overlooking the sea and beach. Open all year. Excellent cuisine. Heated swimming pool and lido. Fully licensed. Dancing twice weekly. Illustrated brochure. Tel. 312671.

PORTSCATHO, S. Cornwall
ROSEVINE HOTEL. AA*** R.A.C. Standing in 3 acres of beautiful gardens above safe sandy private beach. Noted for cuisine. 90% rooms with bath/shower. Full C.H. Ideal early or late holidays. Tel. 206.

NR. PULBOROUGH, Sussex
ROUNDABOUT HOTEL, W. CHILTINGTON Tudor-style with open log fire. Candlelit restr. Friendly atmosphere. Fri even to Sun. morn. Bed, Brkst. and Dinner for £28 inc. for two. Tel. West Chiltington 3123.

ST. DAVIDS, Dyfed
WHITESANDS BAY HOTEL. Lux. modern, super views. Safe, sandy beaches. Golf course adjacent. Comfortable, warm bedrooms. 2 clifftop annexes overlooking Bay. Tel. 403.

ST. PETER, Jersey, C.I.
GREENHILL COUNTRY HOTEL. Superb blending by friendly owners of 17th century luxury with modern amenities. Extensive cuisine/cellar. Heated pool. Charming setting. Tel. West 42.

SALCOMBE, S. Devon
TIDES REACH HOTEL. AA., R.A.C.*** Outstanding location, food and wine. Priv. baths. Balconies. Lift. Safe bathing, sailing, fishing. Large Car and Boat Park. Children over 8. Tel 2888.

STOW-ON-THE-WOLD, Glos.
STOW LODGE HOTEL. Pleasing pivot for Cotswolds perambulations. This once country house offers rooms with priv. bathroom, cuisine, comfort. Write for brochure. Tel. 30485.

NR. STROUD, Glos.
AMBERLEY INN. Strongly rec. for weekends and annual holidays. Golf and riding adjoining. Around cream of the Cotswolds countryside. Within generous fare and companionable bars. Tel. Amberley 2565 (STD 045 387).

NR. STROUD, Glos.
THE BEAR OF RODBOROUGH. A businessman's haven and Cotswold holiday paradise. Close Cheltenham-Gloucester. Golf. Riding. Renowned for catering and cellar. Tel. Amberley 3522.

TRESCO, Isles of Scilly
STAY AT THE ISLAND HOTEL and enjoy a peaceful holiday on a private island. No crowds. No motor cars. AA 3-star and rosette. Now open and specially recommended for out of season holidays. Write to manager for brochure and tariff. One of Britain's Prestige Hotels. Tel. Scillonia 883/4.

NR. WAREHAM, Dorset
SPRINGFIELD COUNTRY HOTEL. Discover complete luxury in the country. Beaches 4 miles. 100 per cent. priv. baths and C.H. Superb English cuisine, family run hotel. Large heated swimming pool in extensive gardens. Luxurious bar lounge. Modern stabling. Wareham 2177.

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

OPERA & BALLET

COCHRANE THEATRE. 242 7040. Mon. Feb. 23 to Feb. 28. Evgs. 7.45. BALLET RAMBERT in COLLABORATION THREE Workshop Season. Ten New Ballets. Three Programmes. Seats 80p.

COLISEUM. (01-836 3161.)

THEATRES

ARTS THEATRE CLUB. 836 2132. (Inst. Temp. mmbship 15p) Tues.-Sun. 8. E. A. WHITEHEAD'S OLD FLAMES "AN ELECTRIFYING EVENT." Times.

KING'S ROAD THEATRE. 352 7488. Mon. to Th. 9.00 Fri., Sat. 7.30, 9.30. THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW "BEST MUSICAL OF THE YEAR" Evening Standard Drama Award.

VICTORIA PALACE. Evgs. 8.00. Wed., Sat. 6.00. MIKE YARWOOD BOOK NOW—Must end F... Special reductions and cor... —apply Box Office.

Best performance by an Actress Evening Standard Award. DOROTHY TUTIN TIMOTHY WEST DEREK JACOBI JOHN TURNER A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY "AN ECSTATIC EVENING." Sun. Tel.

ALDWYCH. 836 6404. Inf. 836 5332. (Royal Shakespeare Company) (Evenings 7.30. Matinees 2.0) Today (mat. and eve.), Feb. 25 and 28 HENRY V. Feb. 23 and 26 HENRY IV PART 1: Feb. 24, 27 and 28 (mat.) HENRY IV PART 2. RSC also at ROUND HOUSE—See "R."

AMBASSADORS. 836 1171. Evgs. 8.00. Matinees Tues. 2.30. Sat. 5.30, 8.30. HAPPY AS A SANDBAG THE WONDERFUL HIT MUSICAL "Delightful. Don't miss it." Daily Exp.

APOLLO THEATRE. 437 2663. Last 4 Weeks—must end March 13 RONALD PICKUP in The Award-winning comedies by ALAN AYCKBOURN THE NORMAN CONQUESTS BEST PLAY OF THE YEAR 1974 Evening Standard Drama Award LIVING TOGETHER Today 5.30. Tu., Th. 8.15: R'ND & R'ND THE GARDEN. Tnt. 8.30. Wed. 3.0. Fri. 8.15: TABLE MANNERS Mon., Wed. 8.15.

OH! CALCUTTA! NOW IN ITS 6th YEAR "Breathtakingly beautiful." S. Tel. "The nudity is stunning." D. Tel.

DUKE OF YORK'S. 836 5122. Mon. to Th. 8. Fri. and Sat. 5.30 and 8.30 p.m. LESLIE PHILLIPS, ROY KINNEAR "Two of the funniest men of the British Stage . . . Laughs come thick and fast." ROGER'S LAST STAND OVER 100 PERFORMANCES

FORTUNE. 836 2238. Mon., Tue., Wed. & Fri. at 8. Thurs. and Sat. 6 and 8.30 p.m. THE LADY OR THE TIGER "A JOYOUSLY GOOD SHOW." Punch. "A PIECE FOR CONNOISSEURS . . . ENCHANTING MUSIC . . . A DELIGHTFUL ENTERTAINMENT." H. Hobson.

GARRICK. 01-836 4601. Evgs. 8.15. Mat. Wed. 3.00. Sat. 6.00 and 8.40. RICHARD BRIERS "Marvellous." Gdn. ABSENT FRIENDS "ALAN AYCKBOURN'S FINEST, FUNNIEST PLAY." H. Hobson, S. Times.

GLOBE. 01-437 1592. Evenings 7.30. Matinee Wed., Sat. 3.0. LAST 2 WEEKS JUDI DENCH IAN McKELLEN ANNA CALDER-MARSHALL in TOO TRUE TO BE GOOD by Bernard Shaw.

GREENWICH. 858 7755. Last perfs. today 2.30 and 8.0. VIVIEN MERCHANT, CONSTANCE CHAPMAN in LOVE'S OLD SWEET SONG. Last week. From Feb. 27: THE BELLS.

HAYMARKET. 930 9832. Evenings 8.0. Mat. Wed. 2.30. Sat. 5.0 and 8.15. Edward Woodward, Geraldine McEwan, Jennie Linden, Edward Hardwicke in Frederick Lonsdale's ON APPROVAL "You should rush to see it." Dly. Tel. "It got my approval." Ev. News. "An evening of comic delight." Harold Hobson, Sunday Times.

HER MAJESTY'S. 930 6606. Evgs. 8. Mats. Wed. 2.30. Sat. 5.45 and 8.30. The New Hit African Musical IPI TOMBI "PULSATING MUSICAL." Evg. News. No perfs. Wed next as Cast on BBC-TV.

HOTELS

BURNS HOTEL. Barkston Gardens, SW5. Near W. London Air Terminal. 100 rooms each with bath-shower. C.H. Telephone, Radio and Television. Restaurant. Bar. Free illustrated brochure. 01-373 3151.

FOREIGN HOTELS

AROSA (Graubunden). Hotel Valsana. first class. Tennis court. Open air swimming pool and indoor swimming

EDUCATIONAL

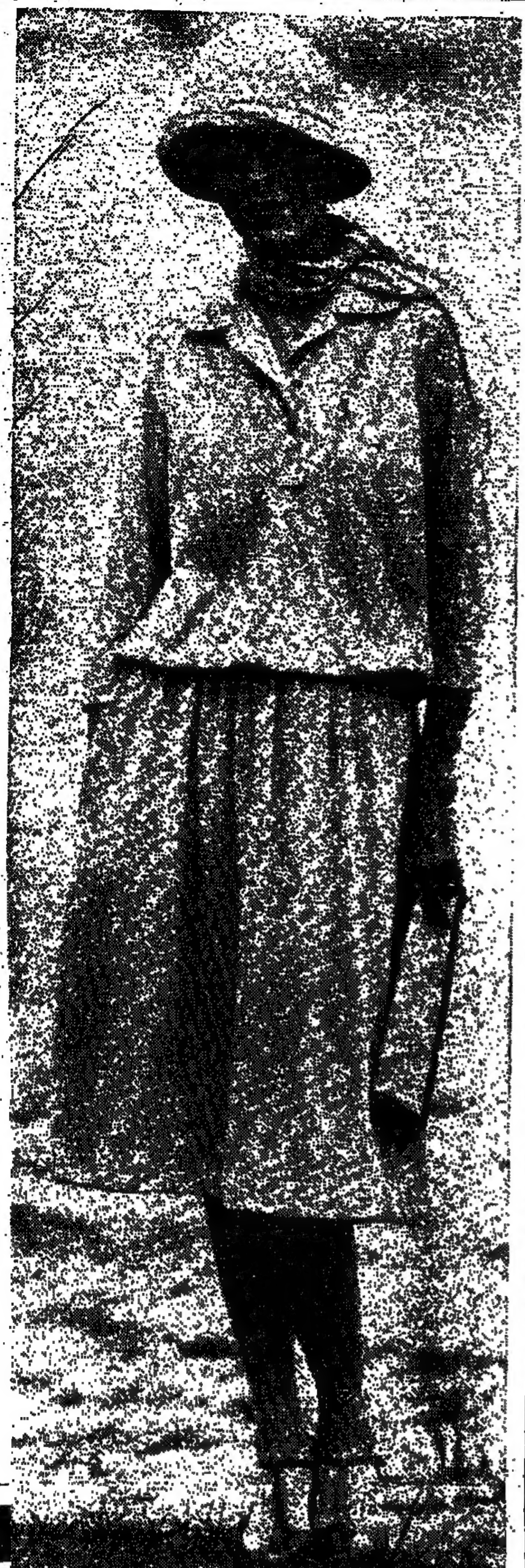
WANT TO SPEAK FRENCH?

You can, through a unique programme on the RIVIERA
COMPLETE ALL-DAY IMMERSION: Intensive Audio-visual Classes — Language Lab — Practice and Situation Sessions — Excursion — Lodging and 2 Meals included — Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced — All ages — All year round.
The next available 4-week course starts 1st March, 29th March and all year
INSTITUT DE FRANCAIS FT.B.21
23 Ave. Gén. Leclerc, 06-Villefranche-sur-Mer. Tel: (93) 80.86.61

LEARN FRENCH ON THE FRENCH RIVIERA
(Near Nice and Monaco)
All Levels — All Ages — Small Classes
Excursions, Boarding and Day School for Adults
Established since 1952. A non-profit Institute recognised by the French Ministry of Education.
4-week course all the year round. 12-week intensive course, begins March 29 and Sept. 27, 1976.
Apply CENTRE MEDITERRANEEN D'ETUDES FRANCAISES
06320-Cap d'Ail (France) Phone: (93) 06.81.54

هكذا اصل الأصل

How to spend it by Lucia van der Post



ıe new Jaeger spring clothes are just going into their ops now and this fine soft jersey skirt and top is typical of eir spring look. The jersey is a mixture of polyester and ool which isn't entirely crease-proof but if you are taking on a journey you will find that the creases will drop out you hang it up on arrival. Some very careful washers ve succeeded in washing this fabric but on the whole eger recommend that most of us send it to the cleaners.

The two-piece comes in the Jaeger spring colours of coral, riwinkle and khaki and being a two-piece each of the pieces n be teamed up with other Jaeger designs. For instance e top could be worn with a straight skirt, the skirt with a tton jersey shirt and so on.

In sizes 8-16 the two-piece is available from all Jaeger anches for £29.00.

A new look about the house

I'VE NEVER been able to understand why manufacturers don't bring out new things when they're good and ready instead of when custom says they must, even if they're neither ready nor good. I suppose there are sound commercial reasons why everybody has to release their new designs all in one fell swoop but it does make certain times of the year more crowded than others.

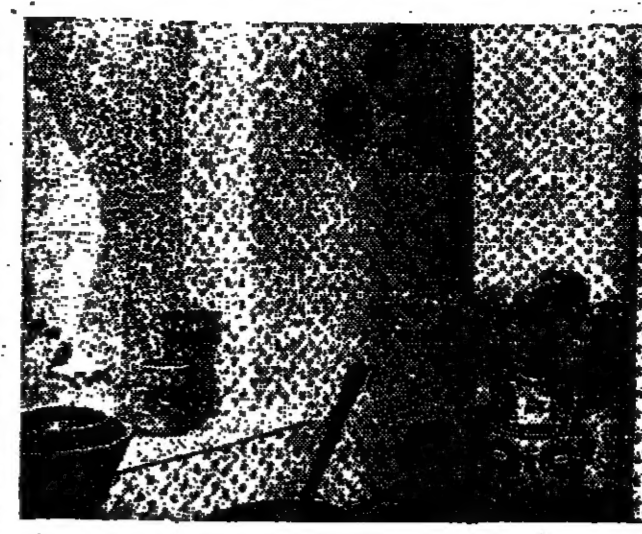
Just about now is when we are all supposed to be looking at our houses with a rather jaundiced eye and wondering how we can improve them before the spring arrives. For those who live up to this myth and are about to embark on their annual refurbishing, the manufacturers, particularly of textiles of all sorts are launching all their new designs just about now.

If you need new wallpapers and curtains the newest way with them is to go for the ranges which offer related but not identically matching designs. Sandersons have some superb examples of this in their new collection of Rasch wallpaper designs which relate to fabrics by Taco. The look is much more sophisticated, to my mind, than the similar, though cheaper, Triad collection.

Sandersons samples are, of course, stocked by hundreds of shops and department stores up and down the country but for those who do make the journey to the show room in Berners Street, London, W.1, it is worth remembering that they now sell paint, paper and fabric on the spot.

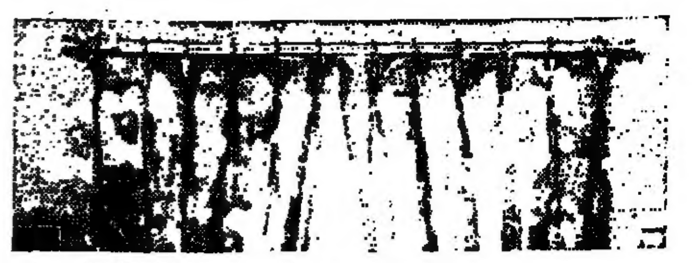
Designers' Guild were perhaps the pioneers of the related look in this country. I have long been a fan of their designs and their latest collection is even more intricate and more desirable than the ones that went before. Colours now go through many patterns and therefore larger numbers of papers and fabrics can be put together without striking a discordant note.

They are at 277, Kings Road, London, S.W.3, but their designs can be bought through selected retailers outside London as well.



Typical of the new collection of inter-related papers by the German wallpaper firm of Rasch and the French fabric company of Taco is this variation on the theme of small intermingled flowers with leaves on white. There is also a companion paper of even smaller floral design which fits in beautifully with the overall design.

The colour combinations are in either blues and pinks or yellows and browns. The fabrics are from £4.21 per metre, the wallpapers from £3.94 per roll,sold through Sandersons.



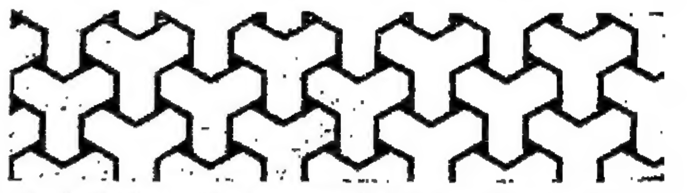
If you're thinking of changing your curtains you might also need a new curtain track. Harrisons, of Birmingham, have come up with a rather ingenious idea by providing some brass finished curtain tracks which come in four standard sizes but which allow for each track to be considerably extended, so that in this way windows of many sizes ought to be able to be fitted with standard lengths.

Each standard curtain pole has a telescopic mechanism which enables it to expand considerably so that the 30-inch size can expand to up to 50 inches, the 50-inch size extends to up to 86 inches, the 84-inch extends to up to 150 inches and the 130-inch size extends to up to 240 inches. This allows for much greater flexibity than has hitherto been possible with standard lengths.

All the curtain rods are supplied, complete with all the necessary rings, all are pre-corded and each needs to be attached to the wall at only three points.

This particular design from Harrisons is called the Marquis range and though finished with polished brass the interior is of rolled steel. The prices are £11.40, £15.74, £23.65 and £28.64 respectively, and they are going into soft furnishing departments of good stores now, as well as hardware and better do-it-yourself shops.

For those who would like to know more about the curtain tracks Harrisons have a booklet on the subject which they will send out free if you write to: Harrisons of Birmingham, P.O. Box 233, Bradford Street, Birmingham, B12 0PE.



For those who prefer a less pretty look in wallpapers. Osborne and Little, of 304, King's Road, London, S.W.3, have long been admired for their collection of interesting wallpapers. Perhaps they are most well known for the rather geometric, metallic designs, but there are also softer, more Art Deco designs, some of them with matching fabrics, and just recently they have brought out a collection of hand-printed paper-backed hessians. There are five designs in 17 colourways. The hessian is 39 inches wide and is sold by the metre at £3.75 (plus VAT) per metre.

Floored, naturally

FOR ANYBODY thinking of recarpeting this spring I recommend a visit to the exhibition at the International Wool Secretariat, Carlton Gardens, London, S.W.1, starting on Monday. The main idea behind the exhibition is to show the new trends in wool carpets (and these may be briefly summarised as consisting of yet more varieties of long-piled carpets). However, the really interesting part, to my mind, is that a lot of hard work has gone into tracking down a collection of 24 "Best Buys." All the carpets that make it into the 24 "Best Buys" are priced at under £8.00 a square yard and some at under £5.00, which for nowadays is exceedingly good value indeed.

Every carpet on this list is part of the normal stock of the shops that sell it and every shop mentioned has agreed to hold its prices for the six weeks of the exhibition. As most of you probably already know, carpets do not come under the government's 5 per cent. voluntary price restraint scheme, so it seems like a good idea to take advantage of the guarantee whilst it lasts.

Needless to say all the carpets on display will be wool carpets, either made of 100 per cent. wool or 80 per cent. wool/20 per cent. nylon.

Among the carpets they suggest as being particularly good value for money are Tintawn's Thatcher which sells in all 44 of Maples stores for £5.99 a square yard, Kosset's Seascape which at £6.59 per square yard is to be found in 62 Debenham stores and a Wilton Royal Colourcord at £5.25 per square yard in 16 John Lewis stores.

A complete list of the carpets and prices and stockists can be had from the International Wool Secretariat, Wool House, Carlton Gardens, London, SW1. Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

The carpets on display at Wool House are by and large the sort that, although very nice in their way, are primarily utilitarian. At a new gallery in Sloane Street, the Kraal Gallery, there are carpets of a very different sort.

The Kraal Gallery, as its name suggests, specialises in handmade rugs from South Africa. Frank Daniel, who is behind the venture, started weaving himself just five years ago, and when he'd finished his first rug so many of his friends admired it and wanted a similar one that he began to think about encouraging Africans to help him make rugs. He set up a workshop on his farm in the Eastern Transvaal where he encouraged a group of Africans from the Shangaan tribe to weave the rugs, using their own experience and their own sense of colour and design. On the technical side he also enlisted the services of a German master weaver. The results can be seen on the walls of the Kraal Gallery in Sloane Street, just one of several Kraal Galleries opened all over the world in recent years.

I think the Masana rugs are singularly charming and it is a joy to see something fresh and colourful come out of Africa instead of the usual tawdry tourist eye-catchers that are to be found everywhere.

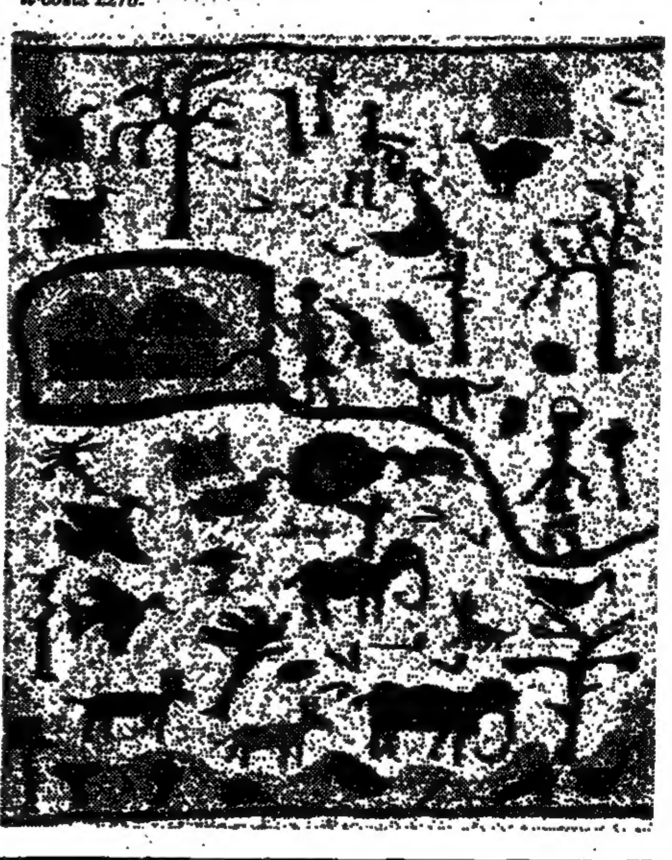
All the Masana rugs are in 100 per cent. pure Karakul wool; all are woven by hand on hand looms. They are fully reversible and washable. No artificial colouring is used—the rugs consist of natural colours, deep earthy browns, greys and oyster white.

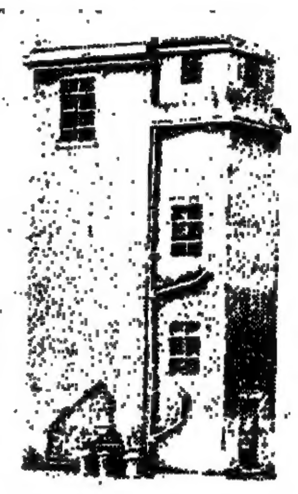
Every rug depicts some aspect of everyday African life or else it tells a story.

Tapestries are also sold by the Kraal Gallery and these do sometimes have some dyed wool in them. They also offer curtaining made from pure undyed Karakul wool at £15 per square metre ready-made to order. The carpets and the tapestries are from £35 per square metre and anybody who needs a rug of a special size can have one made to order.

The Gallery is open five days a week from 9.30-5.00 and on Saturdays from 9.30-1.00.

Two examples of the Masana rugs from the Kraal gallery. Above is a striking arrangement of everyday sights in an African's life. Measuring 126 by 165 cms., it costs £192. Below is a colourful collection of animals and trees, again taken from everyday experience. Measuring 150 by 185 cms., it costs £270.



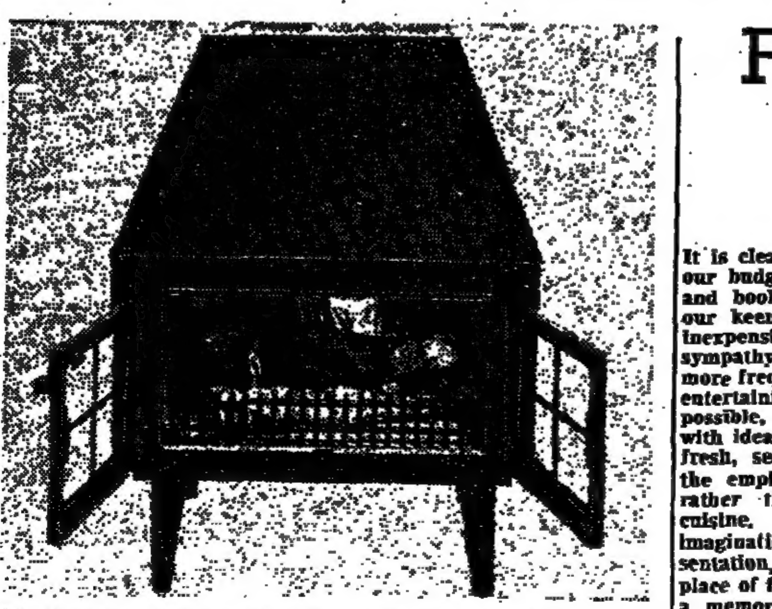


THE OXFORD GALLERY at 23 High Street, Oxford has currently a most interesting exhibition of what they describe as "figurative" jewellery. For those who like only classic designs, this exhibition may well be something of an eye-opener, not to say a shock. I actually think that much of it is very beautiful.

This lighter by Karel Bartosik functions with a Braun mechanism but it looks as unlike an ordinary lighter as it is possible to imagine. It is also beautifully made and very imaginatively wrought. For those who fancy a lighter made in this rather imaginative image, similar ones can be made to order in silver for about £2,400.

The name game

FOLLOWING on our How to Spend It series of last year a reader writes to tell me of an efficient service he discovered recently. Handley (Stampers) 16, Ramillies Street, London, are, according to our kind reader, exceedingly efficient stampers of initials on leather goods, luggage, wallets, etc. He advises us that the journey there is not easy—there is no access to Ramillies Street by road from Oxford Street, that No. 16 bears no number at all and that the name of Handley (Stampers) does not appear on the board outside the building listing the tenants. If you persevere, however, you will find their name, in small print, on a board *inside* the building and there, if you make your way to the 2nd floor, you will find willing, helpful and reasonably priced service.



WITH spring just around the corner it doesn't seem the most suitable time to write about a new source of heat but in my experience there is no part of the British year that one can afford to contemplate without heating. Given the current state of most people's bank accounts and the continually spiralling fuel bills, there has been a great deal of interest in wood burning stoves. I wrote about the Tinlizzie earlier in the year and now I have discovered another stove which is rather smarter looking than the Tinlizzie.

It's called the Bjorno and as the name suggests it comes from Denmark. It's particularly useful qualities are that it doubles as a slow-burning stove when the doors are closed and as such can be left going all night. When the doors are opened it becomes a blazing fireplace. It's very modern looking, very neatly designed and should be the answer for all those people who want to use their fallen elm trees as a source of heat and warmth. It cannot be used for coal or smokeless fuels but it can burn peat as well as wood.

The doors have toughened glass windows in them and the basic material used is steel. There's a detachable front grate to hold the timber in place. It has to be connected into an existing chimney or it can be connected to its own metalbestos or steel chimney which you would have to buy from a builders' merchants.

The Bjorno is distributed by Ellis Sykes of Princes Street, Stockport and of Turnock Street, Macclesfield, and anybody interested in it should write to them for their explanatory leaflet giving sizes and technical details.

Ellis Sykes are expecting a new large delivery of the stoves in the first week of March, having just had such a run on them that I can only imagine all the dead elms from John O'Groats to Land's End are thus being disposed of. The basic colours they offer are black or olive green but the main casing could be ordered in yellow or orange if anybody so wished. The price is £109.65 (plus VAT). They deliver free locally, otherwise by BRS.

Feeding friends in February

BY PHILIPPA DAVENPORT

It is clear from the response to our budget cookery competition and booklet that readers share our keen interest in good but inexpensive cooking and are in sympathy with the mood towards more frequent and more informal entertaining. So, whenever possible, I will do a brief piece with ideas for entertaining using fresh, seasonal foods and with the emphasis on simple dishes rather than grand-scale haut-cuisine. With a little care, imagination and beautiful presentation, even the most commonplace of foods can be turned into a memorable dish—and that, I think, is half the challenge and fun of cookery.

Cash in on eggs which are down in price again. Well-made soufflés always look dramatic—a good note on which to start a party—and individual soufflés are particularly attractive. This makes things easier for the cook/hostess, too, since they only take 10-15 minutes to cook so you can wait till all the guests are assembled before popping them in the oven. Oeufs soubise, hardboiled eggs buried in a cream (or thickened yog) and onion purée, garnished with parsley and triangles of fried bread, is another excellent and more original starter. Everything can be prepared in advance but keep croûtons hot separately and garnish only when serving.

Frozen Australian rabbit, streaky pork, mince and chicken all make for reasonably priced main course dishes and I suggest any of the recipes given on this page on January 24 last. If the price of potatoes appals you; use buttered noodles, a purée of parsnips or parsley dumplings to serve with pork goulash. Rabbit pudding doesn't need any potatoes or potato substitute, but lash out on a colourful and delicious array of other veg.

Chicory braised in bacon fat with lemon juice works out a little more costly than many other veg. but is delectable. Brocolli is excellent: steam to keep its shape, then top with a little grated Parmesan, toasted breadcrumbs and flecks of butter.

At more down-to-earth prices are carrot and kale. Curly kale looks handsome simply steamed, then tossed in butter with plenty of salt and pepper and a few chestnuts or hazelnuts. Carrots can be made less commonplace by crisp Chinese-style cooking. Cut into matchstick-sized pieces and cook gently in a closed pan with a tablespoon of butter, a little chicken stock, a good shake of soya sauce, a dash of sherry and some dried dillweed.

For puddings, I suggest French apple tart. Small Coxes are just the right size and cheaper than Bramley Seedlings just now. Alternatively introduce a breath of spring with beautiful pink early rhubarb. Cook it with sugar, orange zest and a pinch of cinnamon (no water, please) then make a fool using half whipped cream and half "dry" yoghurt to keep costs down. Served with shortbread biscuits, this makes a rich but refreshing finish to a party.

Here are two suggested menus:

Individual cheese soufflés
Rabbit pudding
Rhubarb fool

Oeufs soubise
Pork goulash
French apple tart

AN EXTRA DIVIDEND from your shares

How to produce a bonus from the stock market and benefit needy old people, even from shares that are depressed.

There is a unique way to put some of your shares to work on behalf of your goodwill towards old people who suffer the tragedy of constant loneliness.

For some time now Help the Aged has worked with the financial advisers of both large and small investors who wish some of their shares to help old people in need. We shall be glad to send the facts showing how even a modest gift of shares can help to change a life of soul-destroying loneliness to "the godsend of a new lease of life" that comes from a Day Centre. The old folk of a whole neighbourhood can find friendship, new interests and practical help. Some of your shares can produce a dividend of happiness for generations to come in this way. Because many retired and professional people help our work as volunteers we are able to achieve remarkable value for every £ worth of shares you donate. No Gift Tax is now levied on gifts to charity up to £100,000.

May we send details to you or your advisers. Please write to: The Hon. Treasurer, the Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King, Help the Aged, Room FT45, 8 Denman Street, London W1A 2AP.

Commemorate someone dear to you
- £150 perpetuates the name of a much loved person on the Founders' Plaque of another essential Day Centre.
- £100 names a hospital bed overseas.

Unprecedented offer by the Victoria & Albert museum

Rare Collectors' Replicas by Pobjoy Mint to aid eleventh-hour rescue bid for 'Chellini Madonna'

IN A FEW DAYS TIME, one of Britain's most priceless art treasures will be sold to America unless the V&A can buy it first. We need an enormous sum to save this irreplaceable piece of our heritage for the Nation. But Donatello's 'Chellini Madonna' was specially made, in 1456, *with a negative back*, so that casts could be taken from it. Now, after 400 years, Donatello's intention has been fulfilled! The Pobjoy Mint of Sutton – *working without profit* to help our great rescue campaign – have taken such casts, and from these will create 750 superb LIFE-SIZE replicas in Sterling Silver; then colour, oxidise and texture them to match Donatello's breath-takingly beautiful original bronze.

Each Roundel, measuring 11" across, will contain at least 27 Troy ounces of Sterling Silver, and will be Hallmarked and individually numbered.

The V&A will issue these rare and valuable Replicas – the only ones in the world – AT COST PRICE £175 including VAT to the first 750 applicants who donate £100 to the Donatello Rescue Fund. In this way, collectors can acquire a unique treasure at far below the price they might expect to pay for such a rare and intrinsically valuable piece.

This is an official offer unprecedented in the history of the Museum. It expires on February 28th and will never be repeated.

Applicants should apply immediately, sending £100 Donation and £175 purchase price as TWO SEPARATE REMITTANCES – otherwise a much higher VAT will apply. All applications will be acknowledged and any money (INCLUDING DONATIONS) received after the offer is fully subscribed will be returned at once.

POST AT ONCE – OFFER EXPIRES MIDNIGHT FEB 28!
To Donatello Rescue Fund, c/o Pobjoy Mint, Oldfields Road, Sutton, Surrey

Please accept my application for one of the 750 Silver Replicas of the 'Chellini Madonna' Roundel. I understand that delivery may take up to twelve weeks, and that ALL the money I enclose will be returned to me at once if my application is received too late to be accepted.

I enclose TWO SEPARATE REMITTANCES – one for a DONATION of £100 to aid the Rescue Fund, the other for £175 to purchase the Replica.

Cheques etc should be payable to the Victoria & Albert Museum and crossed 'Donatello Rescue Fund'. Offer applies to UK (inc N. Ireland) and Eire only.

NAME ____________
Please write clearly in BLOCK CAPITALS
ADDRESS ____________

V/FT ____________ Postal Code ____________

Tick here if you want more information before deciding to apply. ☐

Bridge

The day of reckoning

BY E. P. C. COTTER

THE SECOND MATCH for the Guardian Trophy between the Lords and Commons takes place on Wednesday at the Coq d' Or restaurant. The Commons will be out to avenge their defeat in the first match last year.

My hands to-day are Pietro Forquet's entry in the Bols Bridge Tips Competition, joint venture of the International Bridge Press Association and the well-known manufacturers of liqueurs. His tip is: count the opponents' hands. This is his first example:

N.
♠J 9 8
♡K 9 7 5
◇A 4 3
♣8 7 6

W.
♠10 3
♡10 8 3 2
◇Q J 10 9 8 6
♣4

E.
♠7 6 5
♡Q 4
◇7 5
♣Q J 10 9 3 2

S.
♠A K Q 4 2
♡A J 6
◇K 2
♣A K 5

In a pairs event South was in six spades against the lead of the club four, and East's nine drew his Ace. The declarer drew three rounds of trumps, finishing in hand, which was a mistake. He crossed to the diamond Ace, led a heart for a successful finesse of the Knave, and cashed the Ace, dropping East's Queen. The contract was assured, but the overtrick was vital. After some thought he played a heart to the King, and made only 12 tricks.

South should win the third trump on the table, then take the heart finesse. Now he sets about obtaining the all-important count by cashing King, Ace of diamonds and ruffing a third diamond. Now comes the club King, and when West shows out, his pattern is revealed as 2-4-6-1. The Ace of hearts drops East's Queen, and dummy's nine is finessed with confidence.

The next hand was played by Forquet, partnering his wife in a game of rubber Bridge:

N.
♠K Q 7 5
♡9 8 5
◇A 10 8
♣4 3 2

W.
♠9 6
♡K Q J 7 4 3 2
◇Q
♣J 9 7

E.
♠J 10 8 4
♡—
◇9 7 6 5 4 3 2
♣10 5

S.
♠A 3 2
♡A 10 6
◇K J
♣A K Q 8 6

West dealt and opened the bidding with three hearts, and the final contract was six no trumps played by South. "My wife," says Forquet, "accuses me — quite unjustifiably, of course—of adopting a superior attitude when I play with her, and this results in lack of concentration. Here she may be right, as you can judge from the way I played the hand above.

"West led the heart King, on which East threw a diamond. I won and ran five club tricks. West and dummy each threw two hearts, and East discarded three diamonds. Both defenders followed to the Ace and King of spades.

"Now I practice what I preach, so I counted my opponents' hands. West had started with seven hearts, three clubs, and two spades. If his unknown card was a diamond, it was 7—1 against it being the Queen. So I led a diamond, finessed the Knave, and went four down.

"'Four down?' said my wife 'You can't mean it. Could you not have end-played East with a fourth round of spades?' In a desperate attempt to cover up I said: 'It would not have helped—the diamond suit was blocked.' 'Really?' she replied. 'You should have cashed the diamond King. If West shows out, the spades are breaking, and the contract is cold. If West follows with a low diamond, you cash the spade Queen, and throw East in with a fourth spade, at the same time throwing away the blocked diamond Knave.'

"She was right, of course. So, thanks to her, I give you my tip in full. Count the opponents' hands . . . but when you have counted them, play with intelligence."

Chess

Professionals

ONE REASON for the rising tide of draws in international chess, *of which Hastings was an extreme* example, is the growing technical sophistication of the master game among circuit professionals.

Before this week's game, White studied his opponent's repertoire published in the theoretical journals Chess Informant (Yugoslavia) and The Chess Player (England), and decided boldly to try to refute Black's favourite defence.

The key idea, surely the outcome of many hours pre-game analysis, comes on move 20 where White invites a queen's side pawn advance which looks a logical development of Black's attack there.

The pawn duly pushes on but some moves later it becomes clear that it is White who is now attacking and that Black can no longer opt for the traditional retort of swapping into an endgame because the queen's side pawns have become too weak. So Black has to stay in the middle game—and ten moves later he is mated.

Luckily for chess, the sophistication evident here still has a long way to go before it eliminates human frailties—Sax, who wins this week's game, blew the place in the interzonal, which looked in his pocket, with an elementary blunder in another game.

White: G. Sax (Hungary). Black: M. Matulovic (Yugoslavia). Opening: Sicilian Defence, Matulovic system.

The opening moves were 1 P-K4, P-QB4; 2 N-KB3, P-K3; 3 P-Q4, PxP; 4 NxP, N-QB3; 5 N-QB3, Q-B2; 6 P-KN3, P-QR3; 7 B-N2, N-B3; 8 O-O, B-K2; 9 R-K1, NxN; 10 QxN, B-B4; 11 Q-Q1, P-Q3; 12 B-K3, P-K4; 13 Q-Q2, B-K3; 14 P-KR3, R-QB1; 15 P-R3!

Up to here this is a well-established system where White attacks down the centre while Black utilises his extra queen's side space; Black's R-QB1 threatened B-N5 (not good earlier because of N-N5) and White prevents it.

15 ... K-K2! Matulovic is a strong grandmaster who is underestimated because of a notorious incident where he retracted a move, then said "J'adoube" (I adjust), was allowed to get away with it by a weak referee, and got a lifelong nickname of "Jadoubovic." His king move connects the rooks and safeguards the QP while avoiding the routine O-O when White plays P-KB4-5 with very good attacking chances.

16 P-B4, P-QN4; 17 K-R2, KR-Q1; 18 QR-Q1, P-R3; 19 BxB, QxB; 20 R-K3! The key to White's prepared variation; he threatens to triple against Black's QP, and so induces a weakening pawn advance.

20 ... P-QR4; 21 N-Q5 ch, BxN; 22 PxB, QxBP; 23 PxP, PxP; 24 RxP ch, K-B1; 25 P-Q6, Q-R5. The normal plan for Black in such a position would be to swap queens to stem White's attack; but if 25 ... QxQ; 26 RxQ, R-N1; 27 B-B1! and White wins a pawn and the endgame.

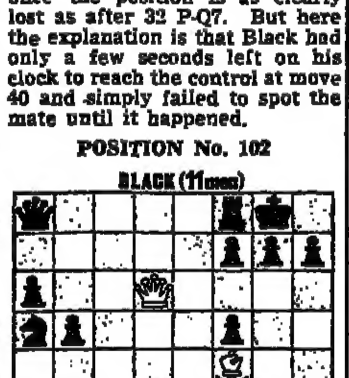
26 Q-K1, P-N5; 27 R-K7, R-B7. Against 27 ... PxP; 28 PxP, QxP; White had prepared 28 R-B7, R-K1; 29 RxR, RxR; 30 Q-K7 ch, K-N1; 31 P-Q7!

28 R-B7, R-K1; 29 Q-B1, PxP; 30 PxP, P-R4. Or 30 ... R(1)-K7; 31 R-B8 ch, N-K1; 32 P-Q7.

31 Q-Q3, R-R7; 32 P-Q7, R-Q1; 33 R-B8, K-K2; 34 Q-Q6 mate. A checkmate in a master game is rare; the convention is to resign once the position is as clearly lost as after 32 P-Q7. But here the explanation is that Black had only a few seconds left on his clock to reach the control at move 40 and simply failed to spot the mate until it happened.

POSITION No. 102

BLACK (11 men)

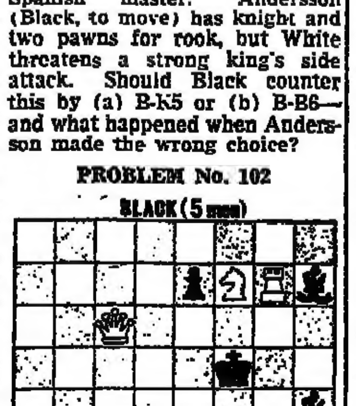


WHITE (9 men)

Bellon v. Andersson, world championship zonal 1975. Ulf Andersson of Sweden, 25, and considered one of the main Western hopes against the Russians, was lucky to stay in the current world title eliminators after this position against a Spanish master. Andersson (Black, to move) has knight and two pawns for rook, but White threatens a strong king's side attack. Should Black counter this by (a) B-K5 or (b) B-B6—and what happened when Andersson made the wrong choice?

PROBLEM No. 102

BLACK (5 men)



WHITE (5 men)

White mates in two moves, against any defence (by J. Hartong, Probleemblad 1951).

Solutions Page 4

LEONARD BARDEN

Property and housing

The end of the line

BY JOE RENNISON

COMMUTERS have once again been receiving very depressing news. The latest news of fare increases and the promise of more to come must have sent some of them into a mood of despair.

It would be nice to think that when trouble arrives on the doorstep of one public body that another at least semi public body would be able to rush to its aid by changing its policy to match the other's. I was thinking particularly of the possible relationship between British Rail and the Building Societies. This is not as fantastic as it may sound but whether anything will come of the following plan could only mean that I have a touching trust in the powers that be for both organisations. With the recent announcement of more large increases in rail fares commuters are really feeling the squeeze on their day to day expenditure. In some cases season tickets have risen by 60 per cent. in the past year and there are more rises to come. In a period of virtually stagnant wages this means a quite hefty increase of payment which comes out of net income. It cannot be easy for many people to meet these rising costs.

At the same time that this has happened the building societies are seeing an ever-increasing amount of money flowing into their coffers. It is true that they are also lending on near-record levels but they are still able to increase their liquid funds to around £5bn. for the movement as a whole. The mortgage rate is still standing at the 11 per cent. it was set at in the autumn of 1973. In some cases the figure is higher than this depending on the size of the mortgage required.

The return on an investment in a building society is now much better than any comparable institution and in some cases almost twice as much as what banks are offering on deposit accounts. There has been much agitation recently for the building societies to drop its rate to investors and borrowers since it has now reached the scale almost of unfair comptition. I don't think the building societies would agree with this definition and must be very happy at the rate that funds are flowing in.

The societies will obviously wait until after the Budget before they make the decision since a change one way or the other in the rate of personal taxation could affect their operating margins. But what a splendid opportunity to give back to the commuter with their hand what the hands of the British Rail take away. In these highly inflationary times what an ideal way of trying to help that mythical figure, the man in the street, to balance his books. A one per cent. drop in mortgage rate would probably just make up the amount of the increase in rail fares by the time the next increase which we are promised has been made.

A benevolent Government—which now has considerable say in building society affairs—could well think of this as a way of reducing domestic misery and bring their influence to bear on the situation. The building societies are hardly likely to go bust as a result.

But of course it is too much to hope for. The decisions on rail fares and mortgages are taken independently and it would seem that it always will be done in that way. They are both after all businesses that have to try and balance their books in their own particular ways. (But in the case of British Rail one wonders just how serious that attempt is.)

But to come back to commuting costs. There can be no doubt that these must be giving many people second thoughts about the advisability of living out in the country. There could be two possible effects. As far as one can fathom the structure of rail fares it would seem that it is those living in what one might call the middle distances who are the most squeezed. The longer the distance the commuter has to travel the less the percentage increase in his fare. Naturally those living in a town centre are laughing. There has already been an increase of interest in town centre housing during the last year. The latest fare increases and the promise of more to come can only serve to increase this trend. We could, therefore, see something of a premium on a good quality modernised house in a town centre and the same to a lesser extent on houses in the far distant commuting belts. Or perhaps we might simply see an increase in the use of road transport.

Perhaps the house builders will find that the mini in the garage or, failing that, the moped on the hard standing will become a major marketing device. There certainly could be difficulties for builders trying to sell in what were considered the most desirable suburban locations. Naturally the problem would be at its most acute in the commuting areas around London. No longer will the builders be able to use advertising blurbs such as ". . . only 25 minutes from the West End or the City." People will begin to realise that they could be a very expensive 25 minutes.

One other possible reaction could be that there will occur a greater reluctance to commute from the suburbs and beyond. This could mean a stagnation in commuter area markets with no one wanting to move very far from his job and consequently not wanting to move home. A kind of siege mentality could be built up with everyone simply sticking fast where they are. As a side effect it could put a premium on office accommodation in the outer areas. Firms may begin to realise that they have a better chance of recruiting loyal staff if they go to the areas where they live rather than expect staff to come to them. It is difficult to see exactly which way this cat will jump and even more difficult to find a solution to the problem. If the Government continues its present economic policies—which it must if we are to survive—then there is little alternative to smaller net earnings and increased costs generally. This again must have a continuing dampening effect on the housing market generally. Very few in the industry see any sign of major price rises for at least a year.

It is on this point that the question of a drop in the mortgage rate could lead to complications. A drop in the rate means in effect that house buyers are able to afford more and that more people are brought into the bottom end of the market. It could also mean that house prices would adjust to take up the slack in the increased borrowing power. And by adjust I naturally mean to move upwards. This would be an additional inflationary factor to add to the already high rate running in the country. While it would be welcome news for potential buyers and vendors is it desirable for the country as a whole?

Houses are still losing value at an alarming rate. Even if one takes the most optimistic index of price rises over the last year (the Nationwide Building Society suggested a rise of 12 per cent. on average) this still means that in real terms they have dropped in value compared with all other marketable goods.

But there is one sector where a little touch of inflation would do some good and that is in new house building. The price of new houses is getting dangerously low. Not for the buyer, of course, but for the house builder. The latter's costs have risen tremendously but the price of his product has not risen in any way like enough to compensate. Unless builders are to get a decent return on their investment they could just simply get up and go away. New house prices are determined by the market in general which in turn is dominated by second-hand house sales. So a cut in the mortgage rate to give a little boost to prices in general could be good for the house building industry and the supply of homes for the people.

The way in which house prices are suffering from the present squeeze on incomes is reflected in the latest index of house prices and mortgage approvals prepared by the Government Statistical Service with the help of the building societies. For the last quarter of 1975 the index shows that while new house prices increased by a small amount prices of older dwellings decreased by 1.5 per cent. This is the first time there has been a quarterly fall since the second quarter of 1974 when the property slump really began to bite. The economic news of this week can only ensure that this depressing trend is continued.

Yet another pub has been sold, this time in Somerset. The rate at which t sacred places have been coming on the market in recent times makes me d whether we topers will have anywhere left to drink. Perhaps it is a sinister between the brewers and the Government to keep down personal expenditur give some idea of prices in this market the above, The Bird in Hand, at N Curry, fetched somewhere between £30,000 and £35,000 through Jackson-S and Staff of Yeovil

Cornish cry

A crie de coeur has gone out from Cornwall to the bastions of power in Whitehall. It comes from John Lewington the Penzance-based estate agent. He has written to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for the Environment pleading that something should be done about the derelict land in the country in general and in his own in particular.

Mr. Lewington is not estate agent. He has a p ate interest in all things with our environment. on the sidelines "as a keeping an eye on what are doing to his countryside. In his le makes a plea for plann mission to abandon b and the imposition of rates on empty building ends as follows: "In con with the recent announ that £215m. is to be i into the economy to e employment and boost ment, may I make a p some portion of this to cated to recover our bl and directly and quick unemployment in almos part of the country, and larly in Cornwall wher are a great many withou and a great deal of wo done. Much of the deral in Cornwall, and indee parts of the country, c reclaimed for affoiresta has been done in Scotlan wall had a great deal of land before the tin bar others destroyed it a productive pastoral lan

Good for you John ton, I hope you might the Department of the ment into some positive

WE CAN CUT YOUR COMPANY'S COSTS

Have you ever calculated how much time and money is spent in setting up and administering your Company's charitable giving programme?

It could be costing you a lot more than you think.

The Charities Aid Foundation will do it all for you at virtually no cost, leaving you in full control of how much you give, when you give, and to whom you give it.

TAX BENEFIT

Your Company need never give to charity out of taxed income: Use the CHARITIES AID FOUNDATION and *all* your Company's charitable giving will be tax-privileged, even those spontaneous donations to disaster funds and special appeals.

So your Company can maintain its present giving at less cost . . . or you can give even more to charity without it costing your Company a single extra penny.

Please send for our booklet "The Business Side of Giving to Charity" or any others below that may interest you.

CHARITIES AID FOUNDATION
48 Pembury Road Tonbridge Kent TN9 2JD

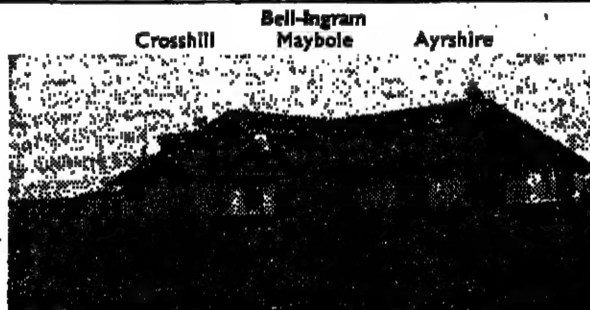
THE FACILITIES OF THE CHARITIES AID FOUNDATION - a guide to methods of giving to charity.
TRUST FACILITIES - to help those who wish to give capital to charity.
GIVING TO CHARITY FROM INCOME - a guide for individual donors.
THE BUSINESS SIDE OF GIVING TO CHARITY - a guide for Company Directors.
CHARITY CREDITS - an explanatory leaflet.
DEEDS OF COVENANT - their preparation and administration.

NAME
ADDRESS
FT (F)

CHARITIES AID FOUNDATION
The cost savers for companies giving to charity

RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY

Bell-Ingram
Crosshill Maybole Ayrshire



Maybole 2 miles. Prestwick International Airport 12 miles. Ayr 10 miles.
Superior Modern Country House
Standing in own grounds with easily managed garden. Facing south with magnificent views over the Valley of the River Girvan and easily accessible to main public road. Lounge, Dining Room, Morning Room, Master Bedroom with Luxury Bathroom en suite, 4 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms, Kitchen with dining area, Nursery Suite with Nannies sitting room, Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms, Toilet, Cloakroom. Full oil-fired central heating which also heats domestic water. Large double garage, greenhouse. R.V. £177.
For further particulars and arrangements to view contact:
Ladykirk, Monkton, Ayrshire KA9 2SG. Telephone: Prestwick 77254/5

LORDSHIPS OF MANORS
23 Manors in Norfolk, Oxfordshire and Derbyshire. Some with mineral rights and well documented. Prices £150 to £1,200.
BIDWELLS
Trumpington Road, Cambridge, CB2 2LD.
Tel. Trumpington (022 021) 3391

COPLEY DENE—BROMLEY. An exclusive development of Georgian style detached executives homes at Copley Dene, close to picturesque Sundridge Park and thriving Bromley centre. 5 beds., 3 recept., 2 bathrooms, utility room, fully fitted kitchen, Full central heating throughout. Plus landscaped front garden and double garage. A Prowting Development. Prices from £38,500. Contact Mike Lamble now on 01-464 0403 for viewing times.

THE DRIVE—NORTHWOOD (off A404). A small carefully chosen quiet close of 4 bedroom town houses and detached houses, close to Northwood centre, the Underground and the golf course. Luxurious fitted kitchen, coloured bathroom suite (some designs with 2 bathrooms, some with shower en-suite). Full central heating throughout. Plus landscaped front garden and garage. A Prowting Development. Prices from £27,650. Telephone Northwood 25417 or 24225 to arrange a visit to the site.

GREENACRES GREASBY, N.W. Wirral. In beautiful countryside Northern Ideal Homes are building a range of 2-3 bedroomed detached bungalows from £17,995 and 4-bedroomed detached houses from £24,150. All properties include C.H. and garages. Show Homes are open for inspection. Write for full details and colour brochure to Ideal Homes Ltd., Bentley House, Bentley Doncaster, Yorkshire. Tel.: Doncaster 25615 or the site at 051-677 2877.

CONVERTED MILL RESIDENCE in Montgomeryshire. Luxuriously appointed ... 4 reception rooms. Luxury kitchen with utility area. Two bathrooms, double garage ... Welshpool.

ENJOY THE SECLUSION OF A WALLED GARDEN ... The Meadows, Haddenham, Near Aylesbury ...

LONDON FLATS AND HOUSES

ROSECROFT AVENUE
HAMPSTEAD, N.W.3
2 mins. West Heath. 2 bed., new luxury flat. Super kit. and bath. Off-street parking. 84-year lease. Offers invited.
Phone Trollope & Colls
01-689 5102

ESTATES AND FARMS

TURNBULL & PARKINSON
(Chartered Surveyors)
TYNE AND WEAR
By Direction of the EXORS. of the
16TH EARL OF STRATHMORE & KINGHORNE
FOR SALE BY TENDER
GIBSIDE (DURHAM) ESTATE
2,065 ACRES—836 HECTARES
in 16 Lots.
ONE FARM with vacant possession
Variety of Smaller Lots
PRODUCING AN INCOME of £14,113.00 per annum
A PRIME AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT
Full particulars from the Sole Agents:
AGENTS: Messrs. Turnbull & Parkinson, 152 Front Street, CHESTER-LE-STREET, Co. Durham. Tel: Chester-le-Street 4211 (5 lines)
ACTING SOLICITORS: Messrs. Frere Cholmeley & Co., 28 Lincoln's Inn Fields, LONDON WC2A 3HH.

FOR INVESTMENT

OF INTEREST TO INVESTORS AND DEALERS
FOR SALE BY AUCTION
2,980 FREEHOLD GROUND RE
ON
25 ESTATES
Situated in Birmingham, Kingswinford, Stourbridge, Be Rubery, Lichfield, Tamworth, Cannock, Dudley, Broms Walsall, Kidderminster and elsewhere.
Producing
£73,447.50 p.a.
This parcel is for sale as a whole or in lots with the in of the estates ranging from £271 p.a. at Bromsgr £14,400 p.a. at the High Acres Estate, Kingswinford (inc a public house producing £600 p.a.) on
Friday, March 26th at 2.30 p.m.
at
The Kensington Palace Hotel, London, W.8
Further particulars from:
THE WILLIAM RICKETTS PARTNERSHI
Chartered Surveyors, Park House, 8 Salisbury Road, C
Tel: 0222/45445.
Vendors Solicitors: Messrs. Becke Phipps, 7, Spencer P Northampton. Tel: 0604/22111.

OVERSEAS PROPERTY

FOR SALE
Paris 7ème — St. Germain
Superb, well-equipped, studio flat.
Frs. 255,000
Credit facilities.
Tel. (Paris) 628.88.11

CANNES—FRANCE
Close to sea on western side of town, attractive modern freehold villa. Seven main rooms. Sea view. Sunny aspect and mature gardens. Please write to ... GEFIC MEDITERRANEE ... Cannes (France) ...

BELGIUM, province of Liège ... Write Box T.4467, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

SHOOTS AND FISHING

DRY-FLY FISHING. One full rod ... Write Box T.4466, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

FOR SALE
The entire holding in a Close Company with an income, mainly from Shop Property in the North West, of approximately £7,500 per annum.
Write Box E.7409, Financial Times, 10, Cann Street, EC4P 4BY.

FORD
MAIN DEALERSH
This dealership, which is sit the Midlands, has an annu over £3 million. ... Principals only Box E.7452, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

Fed Up With the Rat R ... Write Box E.7449, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

DOUBLE GLAZIN BUSINESS FOR SA ... Thornton Baker & Co., Road, Bedford. Tel: 0234 ...

PRINTING COMPANY
Very long established in North West London. For sale due to age of controlling shareholder. ... Write Box E.7451, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY ... Home and Health and Beauty ...

MODERN LITHO Printing Company for sale. ... Write Box E.7446, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

SHEET METAL COMPANY with freehold ... Write Box E.7447, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

هكذا اصل الأصل

HOME NEWS

State may take stake in oil refinery capacity

BY RAY DAFTER, ENERGY CORRESPONDENT

THE GOVERNMENT may take a stake in new or existing oil refinery capacity through British National Oil Corporation.

Unofficial approaches have already been made to BNOC over its possible participation in Cromarty Petroleum's proposed £150m. North Sea oil refinery at Nigg in Scotland. Cromarty Petroleum, a subsidiary of National Bulk Carriers, applied for permission to build the refinery at the end of 1973. A report on the project is at present with the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Lord Kearton, chairman and chief executive of BNOC, would not say who had made the approaches. He confirmed, however, that the Corporation was talking to a number of parties with a view to possibly participating in refining facilities and pointed out that BNOC might have more than 15m. tons of crude to dispose of on its own account by 1980 and as much as 25m. to 30m. tons a year by 1985. It was possible that eventually BNOC could be selling British State petrol and other products, but this was still a long way off.

Meanwhile the U.S.-based Chevron group has conceded the principle of State participation in one of its North Sea interests, the Department of Energy said yesterday.

Chevron, part of Standard Oil of California, agreed this as a result of its acquisition with other partners in the Ninian Field development of a majority interest in block 3/7. The block borders Chevron/BP's Ninian Field on block 3/3 and 3/8, although it was stressed that Chevron's concession on participation did not cover block 3/3 at this stage.

Chevron, as operator for the group, which includes Burmah, Murphy, ICI and Ocean Exploration, said it would immediately start drilling in the North-West corner of block 3/7.

Texaco said yesterday that it had plugged and abandoned its second well on block 15/29. Further details would probably be given next week. The rig Drillmaster is being moved 27 miles to block 15/16 to drill an exploration well in an area close to the Piper Field.

● Mr. Alex Eadie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Energy, said yesterday that energy conservation measures, including the "Save It" campaign, may have accounted for a reduction in primary energy consumption of about 2 per cent.

A-power fears exaggerated

BY DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

AN AUTHORITATIVE OECD medical study dismisses the assertion often made by opponents of nuclear energy that a large increase in nuclear power production would greatly increase the risk to the public of exposure to radioactivity.

The study, carried out by Sir Edward Pochin, an eminent British medical scientist, for the OECD's Nuclear Energy Agency, concludes that a substantial nuclear power programme developing 1 kW of nuclear electricity per head of the population would increase the average annual exposure by only 6 per cent.—the same amount as fall-out at present contributes.

Britain's nuclear generating capacity currently amounts to less than 0.1 kW per person.

Sir Edward is a member of the National Radiological Protection Board, an independent Government agency monitoring the radiation exposure of the U.K. population. He urges that similar studies of costs to health should now be conducted for all the alternatives to nuclear energy, "some at least of which appear to involve very substantial health hazards of various types per unit of power produced."

Natural radiation from the earth itself and from space would continue to provide the great majority of the radiation even in the event of a large increase in nuclear power production, the study finds. But another big factor—six times greater than nuclear industry activities — would be medical radiation, from X-rays and radiotherapy, for instance.

The study estimates that even if all electricity were being produced from nuclear plant all industrial activities associated with nuclear energy would contribute an average of one death per million population from malignant disease, one case per million of malignant disease that proved fully curable, and one fatal and 50 disabling accidents (from mining, construction, etc.).

It also concludes that after some generations of nuclear plant operation about 1 to 1.5 genetic defects per million could be attributed to nuclear energy.

It acknowledges that its estimates will depend to some extent on the type of reactor, the techniques for waste disposal, population density, radiation protection practices and many other factors, as well as the accuracy of the risk estimates of malignant or genetic effects of radiation exposure at low doses.

Estimated population exposure, by Edward E. Ponchin, published by the OECD, 2, Rue André-Pascal 75775, Paris CEDEX 16.

More Home News, Page 17

Thatcher: High taxes hit freedom

By Richard Evans, Lobby Correspondent

MRS MARGARET THATCHER, the Conservative Leader, claimed yesterday that "the present unnecessarily high rate of taxes" under the Labour Government worked not only to the economic disadvantage of Britain but struck at the roots of a free society.

Every time the Government took away a bigger slice of a pay packet it was taking a bigger slice of freedom, and yet the public expenditure White Paper showed that the tax burden would still increase.

The theme of Mrs. Thatcher's speech, in Exeter, was that the Government was addicted "more than any other peacetime Government this century" to non-stop expenditure of other people's money. "Labour has gone on spending our earnings and our savings regardless of what we as a nation can afford and regardless of what individual families can afford."

The inescapable condition for exercise of individual freedom was a measure of personal prosperity. When this was undermined by use of the tax system for "Socialist ends" then personal freedom and choice were diminished.

Even in Parliamentary democracy a Government machine could gradually and silently whittle freedom away. Governments could legislate it away, regulate it away and tax it away.

Mrs. Thatcher commented that next week was the second anniversary of Mr. Wilson's return to 10 Downing Street. She promised to do everything in her power to ensure it was his last.

2p RATE RISE FOR NORTHANTS

Northamptonshire County Council has approved a 2p rates increase to 56p in the £. The rise was kept to only 4 per cent. because of a record £35m. rate support grant, £11m. more than last year.

Two by-elections on March 11

BY RICHARD EVANS, LOBBY CORRESPONDENT

THE BY-ELECTIONS in the Conservative-held seats of Wirral and Carshalton will be held on Thursday, March 11, a week after the Coventry North-West by-election. The writs were moved yesterday.

Both are seats that the Conservatives are expected to hold easily, and their significance depends on the size of the majorities and the consequent boost to Tory party morale.

Politically, the contest on March 4 at Coventry North-West, which Labour held at the last election with a majority of 7,488, will be much more significant as it will test Labour's standing in the heartland of the industrial Midlands, where unemployment and the future of the car industry have been major issues.

The Conservatives are ahead in the opinion polls, and it would need a swing of 3.7 per cent. at Carshalton and 9.6 per cent. at Wirral for the Government to win.

All three contests will be of critical importance to the Liberals, who are making maximum efforts, particularly in the two Tory-held seats, where they did well at the last election. Carshalton borders on the Sutton and Cheam constituency, where the Libefals achieved a spectacular by-election win.

Liberal standing in the opinion polls has been poor since the last election, and party morale is low. Disastrous results could hasten moves to seek a change in the party leadership.

The Conservative candidate in Wirral is Mr. David Hunt, a former national chairman of the Young Conservatives and a solicitor. The Liberal is Mr. Michael Gayford, who stood in both the 1974 elections, and the Labour candidate is Mr. Adrian Baixley, a school librarian.

At Carshalton, the seat will be defended by the Tory, Mr. Nigel Forman, of the Conservative research department. The Labour candidate is Mr. Colin Blau, a social worker, and the Liberal is Mr. John Hatherley, a schoolmaster fighting his first election campaign.

Reports that the Walsall North Labour Party had decided to choose a candidate to replace Mr. John Stonehouse were denied by Transport House yesterday.

The local party will have to go through a lengthy series of meetings attended by Mr. Stonehouse before he can be dropped as MP. Even then, he would have the right of appeal to the party's national executive, and finally to the annual conference.

Private rented housing '5% a year scarcer'

BY JUSTIN LONG, PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

THE GOVERNMENT accepts that the amount of private rented accommodation will continue to fall at the rate of 5 per cent. a year.

Mr. Ernest Armstrong, Environment Under-Secretary, gave this picture in the Commons yesterday of the decline of the private landlord, but resisted a Tory-backed Bill intended to stimulate the supply of rented flats or rooms.

The Minister maintained that the piecemeal changes which were necessarily all that could be achieved by a back-bencher's Bill were not the right way to deal with the problem of the homeless.

The Government's in-depth review, which could be followed by any needed legislation, would be available for study next year, said Mr. Armstrong.

Another bid for NVT expected

By Peter Cartwright, Midlands Correspondent

A BID for the Norton Villiers motor cycle factory at Wolverhampton is expected to be made next week by Mr. Peter Constance, a Cardiff businessman representing a consortium.

Mr. Constance has written of his intention to Mr. Kenneth Morgan, the liquidator, and yesterday indicated that he expected sufficient funds to be available to buy as well the associated plant from Manganese Bronze, the parent company.

Substantial progress has been made over an original bid for the motor cycle factory from Mr. Ronald Titcombe, Australian head of an oil consultancy business.

It is understood £750,000 has been offered for the factory, and that the liquidator is additionally looking for £2.25m.-£2.50m. for the work-in-progress, plant and equipment.

Kent to study education voucher plan

By Michael Dixon, Education Correspondent

KENT County Council is to make a £9,700 study of the possibilities of introducing education vouchers which would enable parents to bid for places at schools of their choice instead of having their children allocated to schools by local authority officials.

The money—provided in the council's 1976-77 budget in spite of Labour opposition—will be used to employ two extra staff to carry out a feasibility study, probably in the Ashford area.

This is thought to be the first official move in Britain towards experimenting with educational voucher schemes which, although strongly opposed by the Government, have been under discussion by a Conservative Party policy group.

BANK RETURN

	Wednesday Feb. 18 1976	Inc. + or dec. − for week
BANKING DEPARTMENT		
LIABILITIES	£	£
Capital	14,553,000	—
Public Deposits	[illegible]	+ 1,275,326
Special Deposits	378,[illegible],000	+ 1,065,000
Bankers	2[illegible],364,751	− 20,255,473
Reserves & Other Accts	195,971,212	+ 71,306,287
	1,676,525,674	+ 54,361,200
ASSETS		
Govt. Securities	1,325,976,533	+ 196,865,000
Advances & Other Accounts	267,727,499	− 140,671,925
Premises, Equipt & other Secs.	53,373,231	− 109,903
Notes	12,563,797	− 274,864
Coin	235,514	+ 12,693
	1,676,525,674	+ 54,361,200
ISSUE DEPARTMENT		
LIABILITIES	£	£
Notes Issued	6,000,000,000	+ 25,500,000
In Circulation	5,987,446,703	+ 223,564
In Bank's Dept.	12,553,297	− 224,364
ASSETS		
Govt. Debt	11,015,100	—
Other Govt. Secs.	5,262,7[illegible]	− 2,2[illegible]
Other Securities	7[illegible],221,[illegible]	+ 2,2[illegible]
	6,000,000,000	+ 25,500,000

Ezra and CEGB head bring out basic divergence in views

BY ROY HODSON

THE BASIC DIVERGENCE of views between Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, and Mr. Arthur Hawkins, Chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, about how the nation's future energy strategy should be conducted came into the open with a wealth of detail yesterday when Mr. Wedgwood Benn chaired the first tripartite meeting on energy between the Government, the two industries, and union leaders.

Forceful statements from the two chairmen dominated the meeting. Sir Derek wanted the electricity industry to burn more coal, thus ensuring that the NCB kept up production and that the 10-year plan for expanding coal-mining at a cost of some £1.4bn. went ahead without disruption. Mr. Hawkins said that the NCB must look upon its plans as flexible and subject to change in the new situation of a world glut of energy.

Their statements are summarised—

Sir Derek Ezra said that the coal industry had already made impressive progress in implementing the 1974 Plan for Coal, designed to produce 42m. tons of new deep-mined coal and 5m. tons of extra opencast output annually, he told the meeting. The industry believed it should continue to press ahead with the plan, involving £240m.-a-year new investment as long as coal remained competitive in the light of long-term plans.

The effect of industrial recession had been that coal stocks built up. Unless steps were taken, total pithead stocks could rise to more than 20m. tonnes by March next year, which would be "well in excess" of a reasonable working level.

Special measures

Special measures, he urged, should be taken to use up the surplus of power-station coal production over demand, likely to persist for the remainder of the 1970s. It was better to find ways of using the coal than to cut coal production, which would prejudice the coal industry's ability to meet demand in the long term.

Sir Derek said the CEGB must explore ways to use more coal in high-efficiency power stations. He suggested:

(1) A substantial reduction in imports of power station coal.

(2) Switching the West Thurrock and Hams Hall Power Stations from natural gas to coal.

(3) Converting Kingsnorth, Northfleet, and Aberthaw Power Stations to coal or dual coal-oil systems to provide a potential 4m. tonnes a year coal burn.

(4) Constructing the Ince B and Littlebrook D Stations as dual coal-oil fired units with a total 6m. tonnes a year potential coal burn.

If 11m. tonnes of additional coal could be burned up to 1978, the balance of payments would benefit to the tune of £250m. because of oil imports savings.

By the 1990s, he said, all major conventional power stations should be able to burn coal, and there appeared no case for new oil-fired power-station capacity. The NCB depended on the CEGB to be able to carry out the Plan for Coal, and that plan would be threatened if in the short term the growing surplus of power-station coal was stocked rather than burned, or if in the long term there was a progressive decline in availability of efficient coal-burning capacity.

Mr. Arthur Hawkins, speaking, he said, as trustee for more than 20m. electricity consumers, accused the Coal Board of adopting a "cavalier attitude" on prices. The new 15 per cent. coal price rise would add £150m. a year to the CEGB's fuel bill. He recognised that the Board, through its membership of the European Coal and Steel Community, had the power to "jack up" its prices without recourse to the Price Commission, and that not even the Government could veto those increases.

Mr. Hawkins said that the CEGB was taking more coal than ever before, and power stations were being run so that the national demand for electricity was always met at the lowest overall cost. Although the deman dfor electricity had fallen sharply, the CEGB was burning 2m. tonnes more coal this year, 67m. tonnes, and had reduced oil usage by a third to 9m. tons (14m. tonnes coal equivalent).

The CEGB had decided as an act of policy to cut coal imports next year from some 4m. tons to "a mere trickle to help the NCB."

Output criticised

The CEGB's coal-fired plant could increase its coal burn provided there was sufficient growth in demand for electricity, and that the NCB supplied coal of the right quality at the right price.

He criticised the coal industry's productivity record for showing little or no improvement recently. Meanwhile the performance of the electricity supply industry made "a telling comparison," with a total reduction in the work force of 14 per cent. since 1969 while production had risen by 25 per cent. The CEGB needed more coal from the low-cost pits and less from the high-cost. Dear coal led to dear electricity, which in turn led to depressed electricity sales.

North Sea gas had seriously eroded electricity's competitive position in heating and cooking. He believed there was a case for a tax on all natural gas supplies. This would conserve gas as a valuable asset from rapid exploitation and give a measure of protection to coal. The Government could use the tax, which could amount to several hundred million pounds a year, to create jobs or help poor people pay their fuel bills.

Brown Shipley

Unit Fund offers

Performance and Growth Potential

Study the facts

1 The Units now stand 64% above the price at which they were first issued in July 1970.

2 The Accumulation Units, with net income re-invested, are now 92% above the price at which they were first issued in July 1970.

3 The Financial Times All Share Index has only risen by 32% in the same period.

4 The estimated Gross Yield is 5.7%.

5 The Managers aim to achieve long-term capital growth combined with a reasonable income.

The Units should be considered as a long term investment. Price of Units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

The Fund is authorised by the Department of Trade under the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958, and is a wider range Trustee Security under the Trustee Investments Act 1961.
Units are on offer at a fixed price, but the offer may be closed earlier if the current offer price rises above the fixed price by more than 2½%.
Applications and cheques will not be acknowledged but certificates will be forwarded within 30 days.
The income is distributed on 15 March and 15 September annually and net income arising from the Accumulation Units is re-invested. First distribution date for new applications will be 15 September 1976.
Except during an offer, unit prices are calculated on each Monday and dealings take place on the following day. The price of Units and the yield is published daily in leading newspapers.
Units can be sold back to the Managers on any Tuesday at the price then ruling by sending the appropriate certificate, duly endorsed, to Founders Court Management Services Limited, Founders Court, Lothbury, London EC2R 7HE.
A preliminary charge of 3½% is included in the price of the units. Out of this the Managers will pay commission of 1¼% to recognised agents. There is an annual charge of ½% of the value of the Fund (plus V.A.T.).
Trustee: Royal Exchange Assurance, Royal Exchange, London EC3P 3DN (Regd. in England No. Z80).
Managers: Founders Court Management Services Limited, Founders Court, Lothbury, London EC2R 7HE (Regd. in England No. 978525).
Directors: M. W. Delmar-Morgan, J. A. Higinbotham, F.C.A., E. C. Marsden, D.L., J.P., T. M. Trowell.

This offer remains open until 27th February 1976 at 164p per Unit, or 192p per Accumulation Unit *or the managers' dealing price if lower.*

To: Founders Court Management Services Limited, Founders Court, Lothbury, London EC2R 7HE.
Telephone: 01-600 8520—ask for one of the directors.

FT2

I/we wish to invest £............(minimum £250) in Brown Shipley Units/Brown Shipley Accumulation Units (delete whichever not applicable) and enclose a cheque payable to Founders Court Management Services Limited.

I/we declare that I am/we are over 18 and not resident outside the Scheduled Territories and I am/we are not acquiring the units as the nominee(s) of any person(s) resident outside these territories. (Those unable to make this declaration should apply through their Bank, Stockbroker or Solicitor in the U.K.) This offer is not open to residents in the Republic of Ireland.

Block Capitals Please

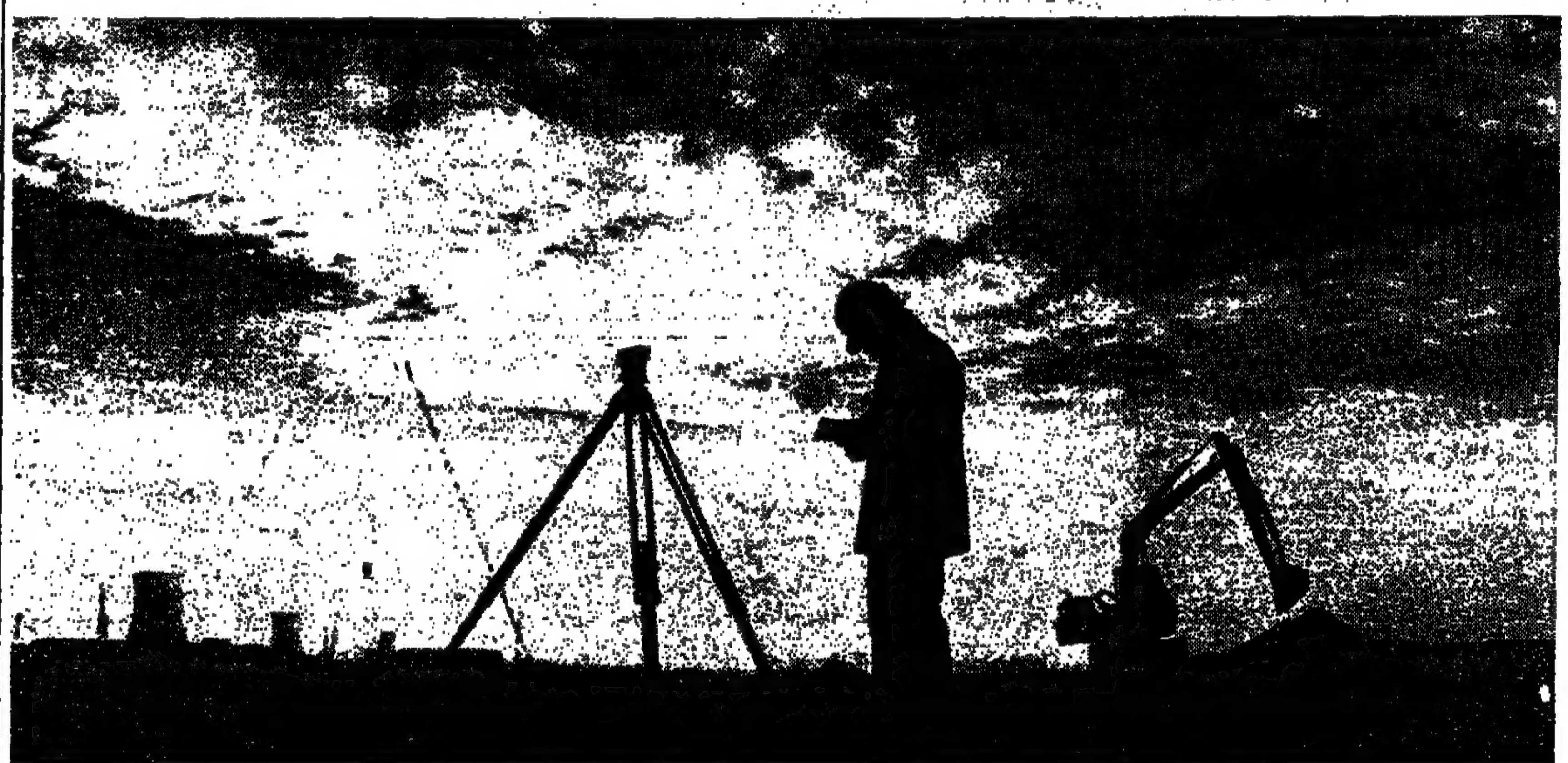
SIGNATURE____________
(In the case of joint applications all must sign)

SURNAME____________
(Mr., Mrs., Miss, or Title)

FORENAMES IN FULL____________

ADDRESS____________

Brown Shipley Unit Fund — For details of our Share Exchange scheme please tick ☐



Last year ICI put over £400m to work for the future

1975 was a tough year. Even so, to keep the business healthy and help Britain's economy, ICI invested a record £448 million—about two-thirds of it in the UK. This went into new plant and additional working capital.

Exports
ICI's exports of £586 million gave a big boost to Britain's overseas earnings and reputation abroad.

Research
ICI spent over £100 million on research and development. Products of ICI's research benefit people the world over—in agriculture, industry and the home.

People
Through the ICI profit sharing scheme, employees also become shareholders in the company. Their share of profits in 1975 totalled £17 million.

How ICI profits help investment

INCOME FROM SALES		£3,099m
Minus		
Wages, salaries, raw materials, depreciation and other costs	£2,772m	
PROFIT (before tax)		£327m
Minus		
Tax	£108m	
Dividends	£ 59m	
Business partners etc.	£ 28m	
PROFIT RETAINED IN THE BUSINESS		£132m
Plus		
Depreciation—for replacing old plant and machinery		£181m
Funds from other sources—mainly loans		£135m
TOTAL INVESTED		£448m

ICI puts profits back to work

Christie's

Fine Art Auctioneers Since 1766

EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE 250

Squirrel eating a walnut, by Hans Hoffmann, signed with monogram and dated 1578, watercolour heightened with white on vellum, 10in. by 7in. (25.1 cm. by 17.7 cm.). To be sold on Tuesday, March 30th in a sale of Fine Old Master Drawings.

First recorded in a sale of 1929 and subsequently published by Campbell Dodgson and Edmund Schilling, this drawing illustrated above has some claim to be the most appealing of Hoffmann's known works. It illustrates both his debt to Durer and his central role in the so-called Durer Renaissance, an artistic revival encouraged by the personal taste of the Emperor Rudolf II, for whom he worked in Prague. The watercolour may well be one of those Hoffmann is known to have prepared for the Emperor. Later it probably formed part of the great collection of Hoffmann drawings owned by the Praun family at Nuremberg in the last years of the 18th century.

8 KING STREET, ST. JAMES'S, LONDON SW1Y 6QT. Tel: (01) 839 9060. Telex: 916429 Telegrams: Christiart, London, SW1

Rippon Boswell

ESTABLISHED 1884

International Auctioneers of rare Oriental rugs

HIGHLY IMPORTANT AUCTION

RARE OLD & ANTIQUE

ORIENTAL CARPETS, RUGS & WEAVINGS

AN OUTSTANDING COLLECTION COMPRISING MANY FINE 19th CENTURY CAUCASIAN RUGS TOGETHER WITH SUPERB ITEMS FROM PERSIA, TURKEY, & THE BELOUCHI, TURKOMAN & SOUTH PERSIAN NOMADS.

Very Fine Antique Daghestan, Circa 1850

FULLY ILLUSTRATED DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUES TOGETHER WITH A LIST OF ESTIMATED PRICES ARE AVAILABLE PRICE £1. PLEASE TELEPHONE 01-589 4242 OR WRITE TO THE AUCTIONEERS' OFFICES.

AUCTION SATURDAY 6th MARCH AT 11.30 a.m. IN THE BALLROOM, HYDE PARK HOTEL, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, LONDON, S.W.1.

THE COLLECTION WILL BE ON VIEW FROM 9.30 a.m. ON DAY OF SALE

RIPPON BOSWELL & COMPANY

The Arcade, South Kensington Station, London, S.W.7. Telephone 01-589 4242 Cables: Ripbosco London S.W.7.

FINE STAMPS AN ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT

For fully descriptive brochure write to:—

URCH HARRIS & CO. LTD. (F.T.)

7, Richmond Hill Avenue, BRISTOL BS8 1BQ

Telephone: 0272 39267/8/9

SALEROOM ADVERTISING APPEARS EVERY SATURDAY

Rate £7 single column centimetre

Minimum 3 centimetres

For further information please contact:

RICHARD JONES 01-248 8000 Ext. 323

The Arts

Sausage-machine programmes

BY GILLIAN WIDDICOMBE

A chance to sigh, like Dorothy Parker, I fink, my darlings, you have miswed me. You, at least, who replied to my criticism of the Royal Philharmonic's popular programmes, and my suggestion that Sir Thomas would tut a little at the lack of enterprise. You even remind me, with hopeful irrelevance, that Beecham used a large orchestra for Mozart, as though yesterday is the same day as to-day. It would be equally mistaken to cite the fact that when Koussevitzky made his London debut in 1910, with Skryabin's *Poem of Ecstasy*, he also conducted a C. P. E. Bach concerto arranged for large orchestra. As a pioneer we remember Beecham for the Strauss operas, Sibelius symphonies, Delius, etc.; and his enterprising spirit is inherited not by any London symphony orchestra, save occasionally the BBC Symphony, but by the eccentric, daring, spendthrift director of the English Bach Festival, Lina Lalandi.

One sympathises with the orchestras, particularly for the lack of good new scores. To-day's young composers, even the relatively conventional ones, prefer to work with instrumental ensembles; and even the old guard, such as Britten, Stravinsky, Shostakovich, Copland and Walton, are no longer producing, for one reason or another. For several years, the London Orchestral Concerts Board backed a scheme in which new scores were given public rehearsals, with the hope that masterpieces would be snapped up, and mistakes avoided.

The scheme was *such a costly* flop that it has now been discontinued. With luck it may be replaced by a more reputable series of proper concerts, in which some sort of international standing could be achieved. If the record companies would add their authority and permanence to the series, and a distinguished conductor would agree to learn the new scores, it could be a stimulating addition to the *present Mozart/Brahms/Mahler* sausage machine. Confidence plays a large part in the acceptance of new works. Frankly I would eagerly attend a concert in which Boulez produced new scores, but would not stir from NW6 to hear the same works played (probably less well) with a conductor known to do this kind of work primarily because he was available.

The record companies are a thorn in the system. They make plenty of money out of established successes, but do little to stimulate or sponsor the orchestral future. Their influence is immeasurable, particularly within the musical profession at the present time, for the choice of conductors and soloists engaged by the orchestras is heavily dominated by the recording sessions which come with them. Occasionally they produce young artists whom we might not have heard otherwise. But more likely is the risk of over-exposure; and the chosen few receive licences to kill or commit artistic suicide, by doing too much too soon.

Obvious examples begin with Barenboim's work as a conductor: EMI turned down his proposal of the Brahms Requiem, only to find that lamentably slow, Furtwänglerian performance snapped up by Deutsche Grammophon. *Another recent case* was Previn's relationship with the London Symphony: EMI, again, made it quite clear that if the LSO ditched Previn, they would lose his scheduled sessions; having invested in him as an EMI artist, naturally EMI did not wish to see Previn lose his London platform. Also Muti's contract with the New Philharmonia, which now seems secured by recording commitments. That Haitink used to record only with the Concertgebouw made life hard for the London Philharmonic, until Philips realised that it would be in their own interest to support his work with the LPO, even to the extent of subsidising concerts at the Festival Hall.

These intricacies now resemble an advanced cat's cradle. Given the necessity to balance their books between the deficits from subsidised concerts and the profits from commercial recording, the London orchestras are not strong enough to break the thread. It has even been suggested that one orchestra would like to subsidise its own recordings and make its own choices, but dare not do so lest the record companies take advantage of potential sponsorship and thereafter refuse to use that orchestra without the private cushion.

Subscription series are sometimes suggested as a useful umbrella for protecting adventurous programmes. To some extent, the London orchestras already attempt to offset safe successes against brave losers during their overall seasons; but protection is very thin, and incentive lacking. Only if you have witnessed the matrons of Boston and Philadelphia snoozing through Varèse's *Arcana*, because the ticket is already paid for, and next week's concert will bring a Beethoven symphony, can you appreciate the ironic advantages of a proper subscription series. However, that system is based upon the fact of only one orchestra in the city: and the London audience has made it very clear that variety and free choice are prized. Even the LOCB's little voucher scheme, which allowed considerable choice, has been discontinued this year, because takers dwindled as administration costs increased. Meanwhile, the orchestras cannot promote their own subscriptions, as this would create havoc at the Festival Hall's box office.

Money is the answer, a blunt truth without even the charm of novelty. It was so with Beecham and Koussevitzky, who spent generously, for our benefit. And even in the 1920s, it was *private sponsorship which turned* the hazardous LSO into a respected orchestra, and allowed it to survive as the first democratically run London orchestra. Easier, of course, for Covent Garden to attract wealthy sponsors—private money has made possible new productions such as *Eugene Onegin*, *La Bohème*, *Faust*, *Un ballo in maschera*, *The Ring*, and *L'elisir d'amore*. Tobacco companies such as Stuyvesant, Wills and Imperial have been good to the London orchestras, but their contributions seem to disappear in a single night, unless the product is recorded for posterity. With luck, the more they are prohibited from national advertising, the more they will contribute locally. Co-operation with the record companies would help considerably.

Yet history has repeatedly proved that new music needs a pioneer, a personality. When Boulez appeared, we thought he would sail us into the second half of the 20th century. Alas, he developed an understandable *fondness* for Berlioz and the Schumann symphonies. Meanwhile, we note that not one of the four independent orchestras works regularly with a conductor distinguished in the advocacy of new works. Sir Thomas's successor is indeed Lina Lalandi.

Mahler's Third

BY NICHOLAS KENYON

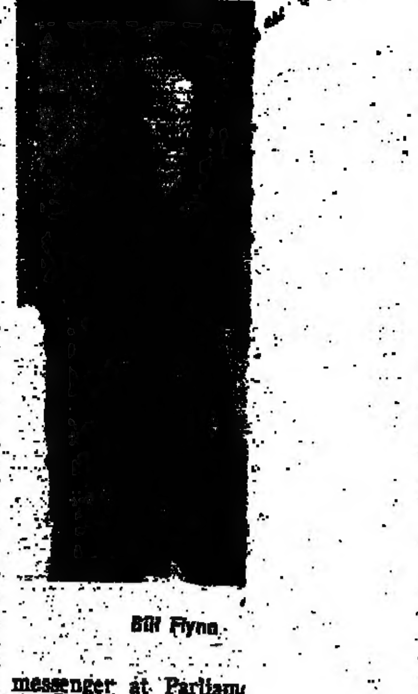
A magisterial Mahler 3 from Claudio Abbado and the LSO on Thursday at the Festival Hall. Schoenberg saw in this most ambitious and disturbing work "a stretch of wild and secret country, with eerie chasms and abysses neighboured by sunlit, smiling meadows, haunts of idyllic repose . . .", and though this performance hardly ever caught the feverish intensity implied by that remark, we were given an equally consistent view. Abbado's Mahler was instead dark and brooding, with the soulless trombone solo and the sinister A minor chords of the oboes providing the key to the long opening movement—a sense of danger and suppressed power in Nature's awakening, only fully unleashed in the lush chromatic swell which precedes the final outburst.

The pastoral lightness of the minuet then became the more strange and remote. If Abbado hurried across some of the expressive transitions (as he had earlier) this maintained the atmosphere of tension so that the scherzo's birdcalls acquired a nightmarish quality, particularly in the piccolo's short *ff* cries over muted strings. The freely and beautifully played posthorn solo took us further into an unearthly timelessness which the reckless *close of the movement* could not destroy. Only the unaffected warmth of Anna Reynolds's direct address "O Mensch" quietly lifted the performance into a human context.

Abbado played this fourth movement with complete calm, reserving crispness for the angelic song of the chorus in the fifth, which the ladies of the LSO Chorus and the boys of the Southend Choir realised with impeccable clarity. So that the intensity of the final adagio was the greater for resolving both tension and innocence. The virtuoso instrument that the string section of the LSO has now become played with a smooth warmth, Abbado at last relaxed his forward pulse (easing slowly into the melodies of cellos and then violas), and the movement culminated in a serenity in which there was not a trace of vulgarity — a superbly clean sound, a superbly cleansing experience.

Tsafendas

BY B. A. YOUNG



Bill Flynn

Tsafendas is the man who murdered Mr. Verwoerd—"is," not "was," for he is still in a South African gaol. He is thus predestined to become a folk-hero of the left wing, and it surprises me that there hasn't been a sentimental pop-song about him already.

It therefore heartened me to find that William Tanner's lunch-time play about him at the Almost Free holds a strictly unpolitical attitude. The character he shows us is a pathetic little figure, and his action in stabbing Dr. Verwoerd as he sat on his Front Bench was no gesture of defiance to tyrants. He might as easily have stabbed the Archbishop of Cape Town, or streaked across a cricket-field, or claimed to be the Messiah. He was a madman.

Mr. Tanner's hour-long documentary biography reveals this *almost at once*. As we learn from the interrogation of the Head Messenger at the Parliament building, Tsafendas was classified in South Africa as an undesirable alien and had convictions for illicit entry. He claimed to have been born in Lourenço Marques, but sometimes said he was a Greek and sometimes a Portuguese. He tried to contract a marriage with a Coloured girl, and when her family turned him away *for being* white he surrendered his pass and requested reclassification.

But what caused his difficulties in life was his belief that inside him there lived a monstrous worm, two inches wide, gnashing its tiny teeth so loud that it sounded like a cat purring. The worm had to be generously fed, and it controlled his behaviour. It was the worm that told him to kill Dr. Verwoerd.

Sad little Tsafendas traded his best suit, shirt and tie to a Greek seaman at the docks in exchange for a Beretta automatic, which turned out to be a toy. So he bought himself a couple of daggers and tucked them into the waistband of his trousers before reporting for his duty as a messenger at Parliam[ent] ... was given a summary ... which the Judge-Presid[ent] ... him unfit to plead, s[o] ... he has been in prison ... psychiatric treatment.

The play is rather a ... affair, with (for exam[ple]) ... time devoted to the va[...] ... of the Coloured girl S... anything else, tho... relevance concerns only ... problem. But the por[trait] ... emerges is moving. ... Flynn's playing of Ts... good. Almost all the ... inflected with the pre... African accent that has ... take on such sinister ... for us. There are w... performances by Gly... Frank Lazarus (who ... Head Messenger an Ol... tie), Evie Garratt, Yan... Mel Oxley, Alex M... others. Tessa Marwic[k] ... tion is slightly m... mannerisms, such as t... fold announcement of ... at the start and the "... spoken before each ep... on the whole it is very ...

Theatres this week

QUEEN'S—*Otherwise Engaged.* Michael Gambon takes over from Alan Bates. Worth another visit. Reviewed Thursday.

YOUNG VIC—*A Phoenix too Frequent* and *A Slight Accident.* Revivals of old pieces by Christopher Fry and James Saunders. Opened Wednesday.

NEW END, Hampstead—*Sherry and Wine.* Pleasant but lightweight glimpse into West Indian family life in Finchley. Opened Wednesday.

ARTS—*Old Flames.* Gruesome, gruelling but razor-sh[arp] ... of three women's at[titudes to] the man they have ... in their lives. Opened ...

SOHO POLY—*The K... Forests.* Triple encou[nter on a] park bench in Paris. ... one-act play by Margu[erite] ... (Lunchtime.) Opene[d] ...

OPEN SPACE—*Dia[logue] between Friends.* Aca[demic dis]cussion about what ... have been a troubled ... duction. (Lunchtime.). ... Thursday.

DAVID HANSFORD & COMPANY

Specialist Auctioneers of fine contemporary Oriental rugs

302-4 Old Marylebone Road, London, N.W.1. Tel: 01-262 6628

URGENT PUBLIC AUCTION

(PIECE BY PIECE)

OF WAREHOUSED STOCK OF VERY FINE & VALUABLE

PERSIAN AND ORIENTAL Carpets, rugs and runners

This very large and exceptional collection of luxurious hand-made carpets includes: Silk & Inlaid Silk Quooms; Kashan rugs; Anatolian Silk rugs; Kirman carpets; fine Belouch rugs; Afghan carpets & rugs; many other fine Persian tribal rugs; Sarouk & Nain rugs, together with fine items from Pakistan & Rumania and many more.

THE ENTIRE CONSIGNMENT ORDERED FOR IMMEDIATE REMOVAL FROM STORAGE FOR FINAL CLEARANCE TO MAKE WAY FOR NEW IMPORTATIONS

ON SATURDAY, 28th FEBRUARY, 1976 AT 11a.m. PRECISELY AT THE HEATHROW HOTEL, BATH RD, LONDON (HEATHROW) AIRPORT, HOUNSLOW

WHERE THE ITEMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION FROM 9a.m.

Every item is guaranteed genuine and hand-made and in excellent condition

GOURMET

FINEST **1966** VINTAGE **CHAMPAGNE**

	£ per dozen	£ bott. equiv.
Taittinger Bl. de Bl. '66	78.00	(6.50)
Krug Private Cuvee '66	78.00	(6.50)
Dom Ruinart Bl. de Bl. '66	66.00	(5.50)
Moet & Chandon '66	48.00	(4.00)

Full cases only.

Prices incl. VAT & Del.

Limited stocks. Write or phone to:—

Frederick Hugo & Co. Ltd., Rawlings House, Milner St., London, S.W.3. 01-584 9179

GALLIPOLI RESTAURANT, off Old Broad St., E.C.2. Open every day for lunch. Dinner and dancing until 3 a.m. Cabaret twice nightly at 10.30 p.m. and 1.15 a.m. Mon. to Sat. £5.75. Tel. 588 1922.

CLUBS

EVE, 189 Regent St. 734 0557. A la carte or All-in Menu. 3 Spectacular Floor shows. 10.45, 12.45, 1.45 and music of Johnny Hawkesworth and Friends.

ART GALLERIES

LEONIE JONLEIGH STUDIO, Holmesdale, Wonersh, Guildford. Tel: Bramley 3177. 20th Century Paintings by 20 Artists, including 10 Royal Academicians: Buhler, Burn, Cooke, Cuming, de Grey, Fell, Hayes, Rosoman, Spear, Weight. 13th-28th Mar. Thurs.-Sats. 11.30-5.30. Suns. 3-6.

ROLAND BROWSE and DELBANCO, 19 Cork St., W.1. 01-734 7984. Stations of the Cross by Norman Adams; Sculpture by Glenn Heilman; Watercolours by Bill Lintott. Until 27 Feb. Mon.-Fri. 10-5.30.

LEFEVRE GALLERY. Contemporary Paintings and Drawings. Weekdays 10-5. Saturdays 10-1. 30 Bruton Street, London, W.1. 493 1572-3.

BEDFORD HOUSE GALLERY. THETIS BLACKER BATIK PAINTINGS. 106, Kensington Church Street, W.8. 01-229 8156. Tues.-Sat. 10.00-1.00, 2.00-6.00.

ANTHROPOS GALLERY. Specialists in Ethnic Art, 65-67, Monmouth Street, Upper St. Martin's Lane, W.C.2. 01-836 3182. Europe's finest collection of New Guinea, Papuan and Eskimo Art. A new exhibition Mon.-Wed. 10-3. Thurs., Sat. 10-12 midnight. Sunday 1-7. New Exhibition of SHONO SCULPTURES.

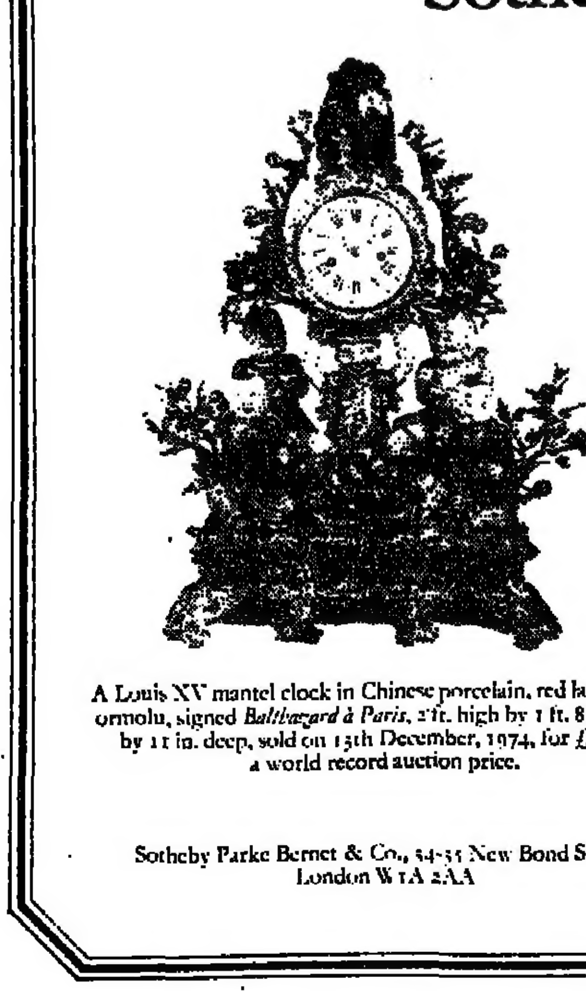
FIELDBOURNE GALLERIES, 63, Queen's Grove, N.W.8. 586 3600. ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH PAINTINGS '75.

REDFERN GALLERY. XX CENTURY GRAPHICS. 20, Cork Street, London, W.1

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS. The GOLDEN AGE OF SPANISH PAINTING. Until 15 March. Tues.-Fri. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Sat., Sun., Mon. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Last adm. 45 mins. before closing. Adm. 90p. 50p on Mondays and after 5.30 p.m. on Tues.-Fri. and until 1.45 p.m. on Sun. Students and pensioners half price.

MARJORIE PARR GALLERY, 285 King's Road, Chelsea, S.W.3. PETER BALL, Sculpture. PIER STEENSMA, Paintings. Until Feb. 28th. Open all day Sat. Closed Monday.

Sotheby Records



A Louis XV mantel clock in Chinese porcelain, red lacquer and ormolu, signed *Balthazard à Paris*, 2 ft. high by 1 ft. 8½ in. wide by 11 in. deep, sold on 13th December, 1974, for £38,000, a world record auction price.

Fine French clocks are included in sales of French furniture and works of art as their principal interest lies in the case making.

All other clocks, as well as watches and scientific instruments, are sold in Sotheby's regular horological sales. Lots fetch from about £20 up to world record prices – a bracket clock by George Graham sold in 1974 for £36,000.

The annual subscription to all catalogues and price lists of sales at Bond Street is £11.50 (U.K. only).

For advice on buying and selling at auction write to John Vaughan (Clocks) or Tina Millar (Watches and Scientific Instruments).

Sotheby Parke Bernet & Co., 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA

Sotheby's FOUNDED 1744

FURTHER EDUCATION & ALLIED SERVICES

A profitable well established and respected international residential organisation situated in a delightful rural area a convenient distance from London is for disposal.

Extensive well maintained freehold property. Capable of expansion if desired.

Good standard of staffing capable of continuing present facilities.

Vendors would consider various arrangements for the transfer but as a substantial basic sum is involved enquirers are requested to give some indication of their financial status and their educational and business interests. Would be ideal for active international company or for an overseas investor. Write Box E.7444, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

ENGINEERING

BUSINESS WANTED

W. Surrey/N. Hants with good manufacturing facilities in 10/15,000 sq. ft. approx.

Going concern preferred with some spare capacity.

Write Box E.7408, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

WANTED

Client Buyers wish to purchase for cash well managed business showing profits of up to £50,000. Participation considered. Full particulars in strict confidence to:—

Hereward, Scott, Davies and Co., 9 St. Helen's Place, Bishopsgate, London EC3A 6BP.

Collecting

For export only

THOSE RARE treasures that make connoisseurs catch their breath in sales of Chinese porcelain were once a massive —even mass—production. The great porcelain centre of Ching-tö Chên was keeping a million inhabitants busy by the first half of the eighteenth century; and a Jesuit priest reported that the flames of 3,000 kilns (which was almost certainly an exaggeration) made the whole city seem at night like one great fire.

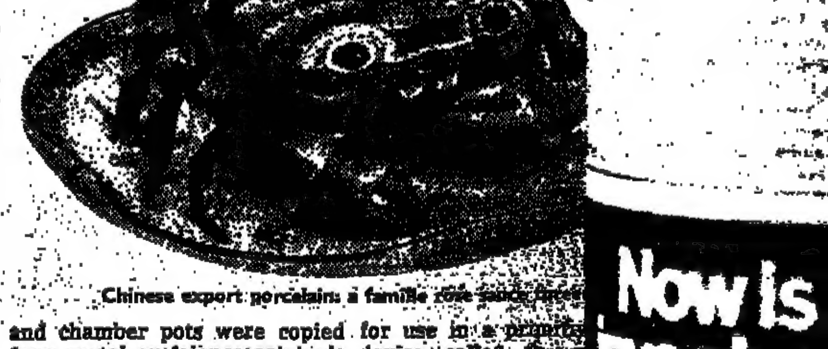
At its peak the export trade was equally massive. In 1734 the Indiamen Howard and Grafton are recorded as each bringing back to Britain 240,000 pieces of porcelain in 240 chests; and the Danes, the French, the Dutch, the Portuguese and the Swedes (Queen Cristina was an early collector) were importing Chinese ware in similar quantities.

It was not till the end of the sixteenth century that the China trade was really opened up, in the face of (understandable) suspicion and resistance from the Chinese themselves.

Trade with the Chinese was always somewhat fraught. They called the Europeans "queer devils" (*fan kuei*), though they found the Dutch (the red-bearded, big-eyed men) marginally less eccentric. Europeans were allowed no guns, sedan-chairs or wives, and were only allowed to go outside their settlements three times a month, to promenade in groups of ten, guarded by a supervisor. Even in the 19th century Chinese were forbidden to teach the language to the foreigners.

Merchants persisted against all the odds; and their legacy is "Chinese Export" porcelain, also known variously at different times as *chine de commande*, East India Company China, East India China, Canton China, China Ware and (most misleadingly) Chinese Lowestoft.

The earliest ware shipped was *of purely Chinese type*, but thanks to the demands of the traders and the business acumen of the Chinese, by the eighteenth century the factories of Ching-tê Chên were producing porcelain to European taste and European order. Dinner services and tea services, coffee pots and cups, "garnitures" for chimney-pieces and cabinets, candlesticks and mirror frames (*both very rare*), *salt cellars* and chamber pots were copied from metal or faience originals or wooden models sent out from Europe.



Chinese export porcelain: a famille rose ...

Especially endearing are the figures of Europeans, often based on Meissen originals, in tricornes and bagwigs or farthingale skirts, but always with an unmistakably oriental cast of feature.

European engravings were copied so meticulously that they look like transfer prints. In a very important sale of Chinese Export Porcelain on March 1 and 2, Christie's have several examples of plates painted with religious subjects (the Nativity, Crucifixion and Resurrection) from prints taken out by the Jesuit missionaries. Other designs were taken from more frivolous originals like the *galant* fancies of Wa[tteau and] Lancret.

The sale also i[ncludes a] punchbowl with the ... subject of the Mee[t] ... and the ... well-known but ... mysterious design ... merry-looking kilte[d] ... soldiers, one of ther[m] ... the bagpipes. A ... amicably combines ... Copenhagen and Cant[on] ... of this sort seem ofte[n to have] been taken from the ... tive" prints publishe[d] ... for use in a ... device ... and consequently ... dramatic ... three ... perspective.

A comparable ... achieved in the ... of Calais ... sides of a bowl decor[ated] ... Hogarth's The Roast [Beef of] Old England—a gre[at] ... which is a star item ... and estimated ... realise between £3[...] £5,000.

Much Chinese export ... the familiar "armor[ial"] ... celain—was made to ... order. Special order[s] ... their own hazards. Del[ays of] at least two years an[d] ... tories were known ... orders for colours ... to the ware. There i[s a] story, perhaps apocr[yphal] ... the European who ... careful drawing of ... with very precise ... tions. Some years ... took delivery of the ... vice he had ordered to ... the faithful copyists h[ad] ... duced every stroke of ... ings including the litt[le] ... and the indications ... "yellow," "red."

Along with the res[t] ... Chinese market, ... porcelain is still ... from the sharp drop ... 1974, which followe[d] ... proved to be an artific[ial] ... A sale as large and sp[lendid] ... as Christie's are offer[ing,] ... more than 350 lots, ma[ny of the] finest quality, will no d[oubt pro]vide an effective stimu[lus] ...

JANET ...

Saleroom

THERE WAS a sale of 19th and 20th century Continental pictures at Christie's yesterday which totalled £171,215. These particular auctions are not as important as they once were because the best Continental pictures, in particular by Dutch artists, are now more frequently sold in the Netherlands.

Perhaps the most highly regarded picture on offer yesterday, A Street Scene in Amsterdam by Willem Koekkoek, will also find its way across the Channel for disposal since it failed to find a buyer yesterday. This apart, the sale went quite well, with around 85 per cent sold. The top price of £8,000, from Hancock, for a painting by Jules Berton of the Fire in the Haystack was well in excess of the pre-sale estimate of £1,200-£1,500.

Another picture to more than double its forecast was a portrait of a girl by Alexei Harlamoff, bought by Richard Green for £7,500, while a picture by Frederick Kruseman of a wooded landscape in winter went to a private buyer for £6,000. A surprise was the £5,500 from MacConnal Mason for a peasant family in an interior, by Paul Joanowitch; it had been estimated at £700-£800.

ANTONY THORNCROFT

هكذا أصله الأصل

OVERSEAS NEWS

Ford-Reagan contest close for primary . . .

BY JUREK MARTIN, U.S. EDITOR

NEW HAMPSHIRE, Feb. 20.

PRESIDENT FORD swung into New Hampshire last night for a day and a-half's campaigning in advance of next Tuesday's primary election, the first in the country. Governor Ronald Reagan, his Republican challenger, arrives later to-day to renew his efforts.

"I think New Hampshire is very important. The eyes of the nation are on this state," Mr. Ford declared, thus flatly contradicting his own Press secretary, Mr. Ron Nessen, who earlier in the day had said that New Hampshire was overrated, and only one of 30 contests.

Mr. Ford lost no time in attacking Mr. Reagan in the course of a rally, though he managed to avoid actually naming his conservative opponent. He described the suggestion that the Social Security Trust Fund be invested in the stock market as tantamount to "backdoor socialism." On Tuesday Mr. Ford had called Mr. Reagan too conservative: two weeks ago he said there were no philosophical differences between the two of them.

The key to the Ford attack is to cast doubts on the practicability of the Reagan proposals, specifically his $90bn. Federal spending cut (to be achieved by handing social programmes to the states) and, now, Mr. Reagan's eyeing of radical changes in the hallowed social security system. To be fair, Mr. Reagan only said he was aware of the proposals of certain economists to this effect, but in the heat of a political campaign a nod is as good as a shove in the back.

The Ford-Reagan battle is thought to be close here. Last night Mr. Ford was warmly if not rapturously received by a crowd of 3,500 at a rally in a school in Keene: Mr. Reagan has a big rally scheduled for Manchester to-morrow night.

. . . as a voice from Atlanta haunts the Democrats

IF THE TRUTH be told, the Shriver rally was a bit uninspired and all the other candidates were out of town or at bowling alleys and it was a bit late and there was a lot to be written so I was ambling slowly, thinking, down Elm Street in Manchester on the way back to the flea-pit which passes for a hotel and I am overtaken by a scurrying figure who looks familiar. He charges into the local Macdonalds and something triggers in the mind. Who should it be but the great Atlanta restaurateur himself, sometime wielder of axe handles, arch segregationist, former Governor and Lieut. Governor of the state of Georgia, Lester Maddox. What is he, of all people, doing in New Hampshire?

I pursue him to the Macdonalds counter (big Mac, side order of French fries, two cartons of milk, I've eaten, so I take black coffee). Did he mind if we talked? Not at all, the Southern courtesy was evident. What was he doing here? And the Southern courtesy suddenly ended.

"Jimmy Carter is the biggest liar and fraud in the U.S. and I'm here to expose him." So who invited you? "I came on my own, $205 it cost, the flight was so rough we couldn't eat dinner, that's why I'm eating this hamburger, very good, do you have them in England, to-morrow morning half past nine Press conference Carpenter Hotel." Are you going to do this all over the country? "I don't rightly know but, you understand, that man is a fraud, whatever Jimmy Carter believes in has to be right, the man is dangerous, that's how Hitler and the Nazis got started, you know."

The bird-like eyes dart from side to side, the bald dome nods vigorously. When did you last talk to Carter? "January, 1975 I guess, at the swearing in of our new Governor, we did exchange just a few words, but you know before, when I was Lieut. Governor, he said I was the lifeblood of the Democratic Party, he don't say that now." And so it went on.

So who is going to win the election? "Well if it was left to the people it would be Wallace but I doubt there's much chance Wallace could win at the Convention, they aren't the people at the Convention." When did you last see Wallace? "Well I guess that's some time too, he hasn't asked me to do anything for him." Reagan? "Well you know he isn't really conservative, he agreed to the Federal Government taking over the state welfare programmes, anybody whose for the Federal Government isn't really conservative, all the rest of them are radicals, liberals you know. You sure you don't want a hamburger?"

See Page 12, Stepping into a minefield

U.S. prices rise 0.4%

BY DAVID BELL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.

RETAIL PRICES in the U.S. increased by a modest 0.4 per cent. last month confirming earlier predictions that at least for the moment, inflation is continuing to moderate.

The consumer price index is now rising at an annual rate of about 6.5 per cent., according to the Labour Department, which released the latest figures to-day. Last month's increase was largely the result of a rise in postal charges, and a jump in the cost of medical care and car insurance.

For the first time since last August the food price index fell—a 0.2 per cent. decline following increase of 0.8 per cent. in the preceding two months. The price of petrol, oil and new cars also fell slightly.

Food prices, which are being closely watched in this election year, are expected to remain stable for the next few months, but the drought that is now seriously jeopardising the winter wheat crop in the Mid West is beginning to raise fears that a shortage of some grain crops may push prices higher in the second half of the year.

Without the rise in postal and medical costs this month's index would have been even better news for the administration, which has been claiming recently that it has been specially successful in reducing the rate of inflation. Medical care continues to become inexorably more expensive—it is costing about 1 per cent. a month more, which is a far faster rise than the index as a whole.

The Labour Department also released preliminary figures to-day showing that real gross average weekly earnings rose 1.2 per cent. last month.

Plan for Lebanon's revival

By Ihsan Hijazi

BEIRUT, Feb. 20.

A PLAN for the revival of the Lebanese economy is the only subject on the agenda of an extraordinary Cabinet meeting to-morrow.

The plan, according to well placed sources, aims to achieve two simultaneous objectives: the reconstruction of the economy after ten months of national strife, and the recovery of international confidence in Beirut as the Middle East business and financial centre.

The sources said the plan, laid down by four of the country's top economic and financial experts, provides for the setting up of an emergency fund to fulfil reconstruction in housing, public services and private economic establishments damaged by the recent fighting.

It also calls for setting up a "Council for Development and Reconstruction" as a substitute for the Ministry of Planning. The proposed Council will be directly attached to the Prime Minister's Office to give it bigger executive powers.

The plan also proposes the establishment of an organisation to guarantee investment against non-commercial risks.

Trains restart from Benguela

As Belgium and Finland yesterday joined the ranks of countries recognising the MPLA in Angola, South Africa remained firmly non-committal over the question of whether it would recognise the Marxist regime. It is saying there has been no change in its policy on the withdrawal of its 4,000 troops still inside Angola, Stewart Dalby reports from Cape Town.

Trains are running again on Angola's Benguela railway following the military advances of the MPLA, Reuter quotes the East German news agency ADN in East Berlin.

In Lisbon, the Military Council was meeting to consider Portuguese recognition of the MPLA.

Brazil's new role

Dr. Henry Kissinger last night acknowledged "Brazil's new role in world affairs" in a speech bound to cause discomfort in other Latin American countries, David White reports from Brasilia. "We welcome Brazil to her rightful shared role of international leadership," he said.

● The headline "Brazil condemned" in yesterday's Financial Times America page should, of course, have read Chile.

Bolivian miners

The Bolivian miners' union promised to bring 30,000 men out on strike to-day in support of University students who have battled police in La Paz and in other cities, a spokesman for the Miners' Federation said, Reuter reports. The strike would paralyse the mining industry, main source of foreign income, he said.

Gulf oil fined

Gulf Oil pleaded guilty in the Federal district court in Pittsburgh to four counts of a five-count criminal indictment charging it with violating the Federal Energy Administration's old oil entitlements programme. District Judge Daniel Snyder accepted the pleas and fined the company $20,000, the maximum.

Canadian choice

The Canadian Progressive Conservative Party officially opened its convention yesterday with 2,381 delegates gathering to choose a successor to retiring Tory leader Robert Stanfield, who announced his retirement after his third straight election defeat by Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and the Liberal Party in July, 1974.

Spanish troops sent to break busmen's strike

BY ROGER MATTHEWS

MADRID, Feb. 20.

THE SPANISH Government has sent in troops to break a strike by bus drivers in the southern town of Seville, just three days after bringing Barcelona firemen and municipal police under military control.

Clashes between police and workers have continued in several parts of the country, with shots being fired into the air in Malaga during running battles with thousands of unemployed men demonstrating over their economic problems. Police made at least a dozen arrests and several people were reported injured.

Outside Barcelona, where the Government is meeting to-day, four people including a young boy were hurt last night when riot police fired rubber bullets and tear-gas to break-up demonstrations. Over 10,000 textile workers have come out on strike in the Sabadell region, with an estimated 100,000 building workers in Catalonia still refusing to return to work, although there are hopes that negotiations will reopen shortly.

In Madrid political police have arrested Sr. Simon Sanchez Montero, a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, who has already served over 15 years in jail. Earlier this week he lectured university students on the party's programme, together with representatives of the mainstream Socialist Party and the left-wing Christian Democrats.

The Government has opened a special investigation into violent incidents in Madrid University during the course of this week, and a member of the Cortes yesterday described the campus as a "bunker of Marxism." Students boycotted classes to-day as a sign of protest.

Nearly 20 people, including the local chief of the fire service and the head of the savings bank, have been arrested by police in a small northern Basque town, accused of collecting money for the families of political prisoners. Legal sources said they had no idea of any existing legislation which could serve to bring the men to court.

Tension was reported to be running high in Seville following the drafting of soldiers to drive municipal buses. Drivers in the city struck two days ago in support of higher wages. A statement by the Captain-General of the Second Military Region said the decision had been taken to avoid any inconvenience to the local public.

Meanwhile an official news blackout has been imposed by the Government on the work of the 18-man Commission, headed by the Prime Minister, which is supposed to elaborate plans for constitutional reform. Informed sources say that the weekly meetings of the Commission have so far been devoted solely to procedural questions.

Japanese concession on emission control deadline

BY DICK WILSON AND CHARLES SMITH

TOKYO, Feb. 20

THE STRICT Japanese emission controls which come into force for imported cars from next April 1 will not apply to cars manufactured before that date, but shipped to Japan after the April deadline.

This concession has been wrung from the Japanese Government by the governments of a number of countries whose motor exports to Japan stand to be affected by the new controls. Previously the Japanese Government ruled that all cars passing through the customs after April 1 must conform to the new emission standards.

The concession was described to-day by the officials of one country as being a "small but significant" step in the process of getting Japan to ease its controls on car imports, or at least bring them into line with foreign standards. It will be of value to companies with significant stocks of cars now ready for shipment to Japan.

One such company is Aston Martin, which is believed to have 40 cars ready for shipment which would not have been able to enter Japan under the original emission control rulings.

Japan's decision to make changes in control standards applicable from the date of manufacture, rather than the date of import, of a foreign car raises the question of how the Japanese are to be convinced that cars entering the country after April 1, but not satisfying the new emission controls, were in fact manufactured before the deadline.

'No revolution in Peking'

PEKING, Feb. 20.

A CHINESE official involved in the campaign against "capitalist roaders" indicated to-day it would not explode into a new cultural revolution in the near future.

Mr. Ma Wen-cheng, a senior administrator at Tsinghua University, told foreign correspondents that so far self-contained criticism campaigns were being conducted on campuses.

He said no "fighting teams" had been organised to travel the country to exchange revolutionary experiences. It was these teams which spread the tumultuous cultural revolution to every corner of China during the 1960s.

Despite official Press reports of splits in the Communist Party central committee, Mr. Ma asserted that the radical campaign was being carried out under the unified leadership of the party. He said it had not disrupted classes at Tsinghua, where wall posters have been pasted up attacking senior Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping.

Meanwhile Mr. Teng is still hard at work in his Peking office as the campaign clearly aimed at him rages on in China, the South China Morning Post said in Hong Kong to-day. Quoting a reliable source, the Hong Kong paper said: "As far as we know he is still working 14 hours a day at his desk."

● Former President Richard Nixon sets off to-day for China at the personal invitation of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, exactly four years after his historic Peking visit signalled a restoration of Sino-U.S. ties.

Reuter

See Back Page Man of the Week

THE LOCKHEED PAYMENTS

Mr. X gets no more pay

BY DAVID BELL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20.

THE controversy surrounding the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation took a fresh turn here last night when Mr. William Simon, the Treasury Secretary, revealed that he has ordered the company not to pay a further $4.5m. which it owes to an unidentified foreign government official.

Mr. Simon, who acted in his capacity as Chairman of the Emergency Loan Guarantee Board set up in 1971 to supervise loans to Lockheed, was testifying before Sen. William Proxmire's Senate Banking Committee. He strongly denied the Senator's suggestion that he was participating in the "biggest cover-up since Watergate" by supporting the company's refusal to release the names of foreign officials whom it may have bribed. Mr. Simon said that any new restrictions on the loans could conceivably force the nation's largest defence contractor into bankruptcy.

According to Sen. Proxmire, whose staff said to-day that they do not know the identity of the government official who is mentioned only as an official in papers filed with the Loan Board, Lockheed has already paid some $8.7m. to this man and owes him a further $4.5m. It is this payment which Mr. Simon has blocked.

In a related development Sen. Frank Church, the Chairman of the Senate Multinational Sub-Committee which has revealed some of the names of people that Lockheed is alleged to have bribed, said the Committee would seek further information on the company's activities in Japan. Lockheed was not available for comment this morning on reports that All Nippon Airway may cancel its order for Tristars and buy other aircrafts instead.

Rome lawyer arrested

ROME, Feb. 20.

A ROME lawyer was unexpectedly arrested to-day, accused of giving false testimony to a magistrate investigating charges that Italian politicians received money from America's Lockheed aircraft corporation.

Dr. Vittorio Antonelli was arrested on the orders of magistrate Ilario Martella after being questioned as a witness. Details of the charge against him were not disclosed.

He is the first person to be arrested in Italy during the current investigations. Two arrest warrants on corruption charges were issued on Tuesday one to a business associate of Dr. Antonelli, but the two people named disappeared before police could pick them up.

Herr Franz-Josef Strauss, head of the West German Christian Social Union and Defence Minister when the Luftwaffe chose to buy the Lockheed Starfighter, denied in a newspaper interview yesterday that he had personally supported that aircraft. Interviewed by Die Welt he said that he had argued for the French Mirage, but had been overruled by convincing arguments. Allegations have been made—and denied—that Herr Strauss' party had received money from Lockheed.

Please don't miss this bull market

INVEST IN Target Financial Fund

180% GROWTH SINCE 1·1·1966

£1,000 invested on	is now worth*
1·1·1966	£2,800
1·1·1967	£3,050
1·1·1968	£2,550
1·1·1969	£1,450
1·1·1970	£1,550
1·1·1971	£1,400

*As at 20th February, 1976. Net income re-invested.

Of course, no-one can forecast the future performance of share prices—and, of course, we know that they can go down as well as up. But in our opinion the signs are that a Bull Market is in progress.

With the major share indices still 20% below their 1972 peaks, it means that in real terms, i.e. relative to the price of almost everything else, British industry is still valued at less than half its 1972 figure. Now that this economic reality is being increasingly recognised, we believe that this valuation is too low and that it will be adjusted substantially upwards over the next two or three years.

We are therefore recommending that you invest a portion of your longer term savings in sound ordinary shares and we particularly commend the financial and property sectors, e.g. banks, insurance companies, investment trusts, discount houses and property companies. We consider that these sectors are well placed to benefit from the expected improvement in the UK economy. Moreover, with their large overseas earnings they are substantially protected against any further falls in the value of sterling.

For most people there is no better way of investing in these sectors than through a unit trust which specialises in them like Target Financial Fund. It has one of the best longer term capital performances in the unit trust industry and has been described as "one of the Trusts of the decade." by a leading firm of Analysts—the record (shown in the centre column) tells you why.

You will see that Target Financial has handsomely beaten inflation over the longer term and remember that a unit trust is essentially a longer term investment. What is more the Fund has even taken the sting out of it over the more recent and very difficult years. We see no reason why this success should not continue in the future.

Remember the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

INVESTMENT MANAGERS, DAWNAY, DAY & CO., LTD.

OFFER OF UNITS AT 56.6p EACH UNTIL 27th FEBRUARY 1976

Estimated current gross annual yield £4.00 per cent.

APPLICATIONS and cheques will not be acknowledged but certificates will be sent within 42 days of the close of the offer. YOU MAY SELL YOUR UNITS at any time at a price which will not be less than that calculated by Department of Trade regulations. Payment will be made within 10 days of receipt by the Managers of the renounced certificate. The daily prices of units, and yield, are quoted in leading national newspapers.

AN INITIAL CHARGE of 5% is included in the sale price of the units. The Managers will pay commission of 1¼% to qualified Agents.

THE MANAGERS reserve the right to close the offer before the date stated above if the price of units varies by more than 2½% during the offer period. After the close of this offer units will be available at the daily price.

INCOME less tax at the basic rate will be distributed on 30th April each year. An annual charge of ½% of the value of the Fund plus VAT is deducted from the gross income of the Fund. Units purchased now will qualify for the distribution on 30th April, 1976.

TRUSTEE Midland Bank Trust Company Ltd.

MANAGERS: Target Trust Managers Limited (Member of the Association of Unit Trust Managers.) a subsidiary of Target Trust Group Limited.

Group Directors: A. P. W. Simon, T. D., F.C.A., (Chairman); E. B. G. Clowes, M.B.E., (Managing Director); Rt. Hon. Lord Alport, P.C., T.D., D.L.; A. C. B. Chancellor; E. P. Hatchett, F.I.A.; J. H. Pattisson, M. A.; M. E. G. Prince, M.A., F.C.A.; I. G. Sampson, J.P.; D. McD. Sumner, F.C.A.; R. W. Taylor, A.C.I.I.

TARGET TRUST MANAGERS LIMITED (DEPT. T.G.) TARGET HOUSE, GATEHOUSE RD., AYLESBURY, BUCKS. FT 21/2

I/We wish to invest £ in Target Financial Fund units at 56.6p per unit. (Minimum initial holding £200)

and enclose a cheque made payable to Target Trust Managers Limited.

I/We declare I am/we are not resident outside the Scheduled Territories and I am/we are not acquiring the units as the nominee(s) of any person(s) resident outside these territories. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland. This offer closes on 27th February, 1976.

Signature(s) Date

PLEASE WRITE IN BLOCK LETTERS—THE CERTIFICATE WILL BE PREPARED FROM THIS FORM.

Name(s) in full

Address

Target Financial Fund

Total Funds under management in the Target Group £100,000,000

Higher Rate Taxpayers

Schlesingers 'Nil Yield' Fund is specifically designed for you.

Also suitable for ★Trustees ★Children's Investments ★Capital Transfer Tax planning

		Tax Rate* 50%	70%	90%	98%
		Gross income yield equivalent			
Capital growth of	2% equals	3.5%	5.8%	17.5%	87.5%
	4% equals	7.0%	11.7%	35.0%	175.0%
	6% equals	10.5%	17.5%	52.5%	262.5%

Total Net Returns

Many investors are now looking increasingly at total NET returns from investments rather than at gross dividend returns which can suffer very high rates of taxation.

The table, indicating the gross income yields equivalent (at varying income-tax rates) to the specified gross capital gains, shows how unattractive such income can be compared with gains made in an Authorised Unit Trust. Here, very modest relative capital gain offers the same net return as a very high gross income at the upper end of the tax range. In fact, for the 70% tax payer capital gains in an Authorised Unit Trust are worth at least 2.9 times as much as the same income return.

Aims and structure of the 'Nil Yield' Fund

This Fund has been designed to achieve a portfolio return principally or wholly by way of capital gain. However, the managers expect that there will be a small income distribution on the Fund about every 2–3 years. There are specialised techniques to achieve such a return but most are impractical for the private investor since they need constant monitoring and a high degree of technical expertise besides considerable administration. By concentrating full time professional management on one portfolio and using to full advantage the tax and administrative efficiencies inherent in Authorised Unit Trusts, Schlesinger Trust Managers have resolved this difficulty and can also offer a diversified portfolio.

Three Portfolios in one

The Fund is divided into 3 separate portfolios.

1. Fixed Interest. This portfolio includes "Surtax" Gilts where the redemption yield is substantially represented by capital gain. This portfolio and cash awaiting investment currently accounts for 53% of the Trust.

2. Overseas Growth Stocks. This portfolio—some 38% of the Trust—includes particular emphasis on the U.S. stockmarket, currently favoured by the Managers. Back-to-back foreign currency facilities are used to avoid substantially the risks of the dollar premium.

3. U.K. Equities. This portfolio—currently 9% of Trust—includes low yielding equities and a small proportion in the Capital Shares of Dual Capital Investment Trust Companies.

The Fund's aim is to minimise volatility whilst offering a higher return (by way of total appreciation) than that available on fixed interest deposits. Thus the Fund will not move in line with any ordinary share index. The managers will alter the structure of the portfolio as appropriate to achieve the objective of the Fund. An investment in this Fund should be regarded as long term.

"PIMS"—the recommendation of many professional advisers.

Schlesingers PIMS linked to the Trident 'Nil Yield' Fund is designed specifically for the larger investor of £2,500 to £100,000. "PIMS" provides regular detailed reports and portfolio valuations, together with invitations to meet the investment managers.

* The figures used throughout are based on the April 1975 Budget. Minimum investment in the Fund is £2,500 or £500 p.a. for regular gifts. For full details please write to Client Liaison Dept., Schlesingers, 140 South Street, Dorking, Surrey. If you would like to discuss your personal requirements please contact Ian Forsyth at our London office.

NIL YIELD 'PIMS' exclusive to SCHLESINGERS

Specialists in the management of private, institutional and pension funds. Schlesinger Trust Managers Ltd., 19 Hanover Square, London W1R 9DA. Tel: 01-409 3100. Weekend and evening Ansaphone Tel: Dorking (0306) 86441. Members of the Association of Unit Trust Managers. Not applicable to Eire.

I would like full information on the PIMS 'Nil Yield' Fund

Name

Address

FT 21.2

Now is the time to invest overseas with Crescent International Fund.

The London market had a dramatic rise last year. This year it's New York and other overseas markets which look particularly favourable for investment opportunities.

That's why Crescent International Fund is at present directing new monies into the American market.

Our investment policy has always been sufficiently flexible to take advantage of market trends around the world: to get into a particular market quickly when the situation seems favourable, and to get out quickly when the circumstances change.

Crescent International Fund, which aims for long term capital growth, is managed by Crescent Unit Trust Managers Ltd. Day to day investment is carried out by Edinburgh Fund Managers Ltd., currently managing funds in excess of £100 million. Both are part of American Trust Co. Ltd., a British, Edinburgh based Investment Trust founded in 1902.

At present the Fund is invested:—41% North America, 21% Japan, 17% Europe, 13% U.K., 1% South America, 7% Cash.

Minimum initial investment is £250, and thereafter a minimum £10 at any one purchase. The investment should be looked upon as long term.

The price of units and income from them can go down as well as up.

GENERAL INFORMATION

This offer is not open to citizens of the Republic of Ireland.

CRESCENT INTERNATIONAL FUND

I/We wish to invest the sum of £ at the Managers' selling price when this application is received (Minimum investment is £250 and blocks of £10 thereafter).

My/Our remittance is enclosed payable to Crescent Unit Trust Managers Ltd. APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED, certificates will be despatched within 28 days.

All joint holders must sign. Units cannot be registered in the name of minors.

Surname(s) (Mr., Mrs. or Miss)

First Names (in full)

Address(es)

Usual Signature(s)

Date

Registered in Edinburgh, Number 37269. Registered Office, 4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7JB.

To Crescent Unit Trust Managers Limited, 4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 7JB. Tel: 031-226 4931.

THE FINANCIAL TIMES

(Established 1888)
Incorporating THE FINANCIAL NEWS
(Established 1884)

Head Office Editorial & Advertisement Offices:
BRACKEN HOUSE, CANNON STREET, LONDON EC4P 4BY
Telephone Day & Night: 01-248 8000. Telegrams: Finantimo, London
Telex: 886341/2, 883897
For Share Index and Business News Summary Ring: 01-246 8026

Birmingham: George House, George Road 021-454 0922
Dublin: 8 Fitzwilliam Sq. 785321
Edinburgh: 18 Hanover St. .. 031-226 4120
Leeds: Permanent House, The Headrow 0532 454969
Manchester: Queens House, Queen St. 061-834 9381
Paris: 36 Rue du Sentier 236.50.39 (editorial) 236.86.01 (business)
Bonn: Pressehaus 11/104 Heussallee 2-10 222596
Frankfurt: Frankfurt am Main, Im Sachsenlager 13 555730 (editorial) 554667 (business)
Brussels: 39 Rue Ducale 129037
Rome: Via della Mercede 55 .... 678 3314
Stockholm: Rasiambsvägen 7, 105 17 Stockholm. Tel: 50 60 88
New York: 75 Rockefeller Plaza, NY 10019 Editorial—212 541 4625 Business—212 489 8300
Washington: Second Floor, 1325, E. Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 202 347 2676
Jo'burg: 637 Union Centre East corner: Pritchard and Harrison Streets. P.O. Box 2128
Tokyo: 8th Floor, Nihon Keizai Shimbun Building, 1-9-5 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku. Tel: 241 2920

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1976

A very long tunnel

THE MARKETS yesterday gave a worried reception to the Government's White Paper on public spending—the only official view of the medium term outlook which we are allowed to see—and rightly so. Until yesterday, it seemed that a programme to halt the real growth in public spending, as advertised by the Chancellor, would give a reasonable basis for steady recovery. The Chancellor has been more or less as good as his word as far as cuts in future programmes are concerned, but the fact fell woefully short of his implied promise in two respects. First, spending will continue to grow, by about 2½ per cent. in real terms, next year; a year has therefore been lost before we begin to rectify the balance of the economy, a year in which all kinds of electoral, international and inflationary hazards may appear. Second, the Government has at last admitted the true cost of servicing past debt.

Cancels out

The debt service burden, which in money terms cancels out the whole of the programme cuts, has been the real shock. It is not one for which the Government can be blamed altogether, since it is partly because of the Chancellor's admirable determination not to print the money required that it now appears in the forecasts as a real burden on the taxpayer and a heavy load on the financial markets—or, in the odd terms in which official forecasts are expressed, the rise in the burden is a consequence of *a lower forecast rate of inflation*.

It appears, then, looking backward, that the burden was understated drastically last year partly because the Treasury was assuming, without admitting the fact, a continuation of rapid inflation for five solid years. There could hardly be a lesson in how misleading it can be to present forecasts in "real" terms without explanation. A reduction in inflation brings "real and financial facts into closer relation: and the fact that is re-appearing out of the statistical fog is that borrowing implies future obligations. Lenders to the State can actually hope for some real income again: that must be provided by the taxpayer

It is this obligation, on top of the huge existing gap between revenue and expenditure, which means that the tax burden will have to rise sharply over the next few years even if a standstill in the growth of public services is achieved in good earnest. In spite of this rise in taxation, there will be very large funding operations required, especially in the next two or three years, if the money supply is to be kept under control, and these operations will tend to raise interest rates.

What the White Paper displays, in fact, is the truth that a Government with heavy financial obligations should be thinking about cutting its real expenditure, just as a private concern would have to do, rather than simply stabilising it at a high level. It should also, of course, examine any acceptable means of reducing the financial burden itself. This is a message that the financial markets themselves may well drive home more effectively than any number of speeches and articles, for in a sullen market funding becomes even more expensive. The first signs suggest that the Government is going to be forced in this way to some hard second thoughts.

Honest statement

Further cuts, after the agonising exercise of the last year, will not be easy to achieve, but they are certainly possible. If those resources of the health service were now available to those ready to pay for them, through insurance or personal fees, were expounded rather than shut down, the burden could be spread. The housing programme, at a time when demographic demand is low and the Government itself admits the existing stock of houses exceeds the number of households by some three quarters of a million is a monument to Bumbledom, and it is to be hoped that the economic review now in progress in the Department of the Environment will be allowed to produce some sense. Fixed interest borrowing is expensive at a time of falling inflation, and there are alternatives. Altogether, the great merit of the White Paper is that it comes much nearer than its predecessors to an honest statement of our problems: but the next will have to offer some more convincing solutions.

There is a special significance about the first of the U.S. Presidential election primaries in New Hampshire next week. In the past, the state's results have set the pattern of subsequent national campaigns

Stepping into a minefield in New Hampshire

From JUREK MARTIN, U.S. Editor, Manchester, N.H., Feb. 20

NEW HAMPSHIRE is a beguiling State. Its biggest town, Manchester, is a victim of urban sprawl and the conditions in some of the mills and shoe factories smack of the 19th century, but all in all it has great charm: the skiing is good, the woods and lakes lovely, the people Yankees of the best sort, calm and courteous.

In national terms it is inconsequential. Of the 50 States in the Union it ranks 41st in population and 44th in land area. For year is was a rockribbed Rublican State and although, untypically, both its Senators and one of its two Congressmen are currently Democrats, New Hampshire's Governor is very much of the Right and its registered Republicans out-number Democrats by about 3-2, compared with a national average *which is about 2-1 the other* way. New Hampshire ought to be both relatively unimportant and very predictable.

In 1952 the state decided to hold a Presidential preference primary, which as it happened, was the first to be held in the country that year. Impressed with the spotlight that was albeit, briefly, thrust on it, New Hampshire has ever since been determined always to be the first. But this is not the only reason why New Hampshire is important, for the results it has handed down in the last 24 years have contained surprises that have set the course of subsequent national election campaigns.

Four men with a special interest in next Tuesday's results from the New Hampshire primaries (Republicans on the left, Democrats on the right). Top left: President Gerald Ford—no great shakes as a campaigner. Top right: Mr. James Carter—the easy charm, the Kennedy smile. Bottom left: Governor Ronald Reagan—suffering from the impact of a Presidential visit. Bottom right: Mr. Birch Bayh—is a puzzle.

Political arena

In 1952, Mr. Harry Truman lost to Mr. Estes Kefauver here and shortly thereafter withdrew: in the same year General Dwight Eisenhower, still Nato Commander-in-Chief and based in Europe, out-polled Mr. Robert Taft and was seduced into the political arena; Mr. Nelson Rockefeller and Mr. George Romney, both front runners, tripped up here; Mr. Eugene McCarthy scared Mr. Lyndon Johnson in 1968 and hastened his resignation; four years ago Mr. Edmund Muske from neighbouring Maine failed to do what everyone assumed he would and extinguish the Mr. George McGovern challenge, adding to his own troubles by breaking down in the face of the insulting pin pricks of a local newspaper.

New Hampshire, far from being as serene as its surface suggests, is in reality a minefield for the politician who is too careless, too optimistic or too confident. It is this realisation that marks the 1976 campaign here in both parties and which also makes it so difficult to predict the outcome. The tiny population of this state has had its hand shaken, its doors knocked, its work interrupted by at least eight candidates for *several months* but it is still playing its cards very closely to its chest.

Because it is the first, New Hampshire provides momentum to the rest of the primaries ahead. So far, the political analysts have had to be content with picking through the entrails of half a dozen very tentative and arguably unrepresentative state caucus meetings. The only real evidence from these is that Jimmy Carter and George Wallace of the Democrats have shown some strength while two always marginal *candidates, Lloyd Bentsen* and Terry Sanford, have given up. No Republican clues have been detected.

Many observers are, perhaps for the first time in their lives, forced to agree with something that Mr. William Loeb, the prejudiced Right-wing publisher of the *Manchester Union Leader*, has written: "Frankly, we haven't the foggiest notion—nor, we gather, does anybody else—of what New Hampshire Republicans will or won't do when they go to the polls next Tuesday." President Gerald Ford is here this week-end for the second time this month to rally his cause, Governor Ronald Reagan for the umpteenth time. For what it is worth, the popular word among Democrats on the Republican race is that at the start of this month Mr. Reagan, better organised, backed by the Governor Meldrim Thompson and by the notorious Mr. Loeb, always on the stump, was unquestionably ahead. New, however, this is in doubt, not so much because holes have started to appear in *his programmes but because of* the impact of a Presidential visit.

Mr. Ford is no great shakes as a campaigner: he is probably inferior to Governor Reagan. Political experts are puzzled by Mr. Ford's inconsistency, declaring one week that he is philosophically identical to Mr. Reagan, the next arguing strongly that he is not, because Mr. Reagan is too conservative, and finally last night in Keene accusing his opponent of "back door Socialism." But this sophistry may not wash in New Hampshire, just as it is possible that people here are less worried about the extremism in what Mr. Reagan is proposing as impressed by his determination to hold his end up.

The Democrats are being even more coy. All that Messrs. Carter, Udall, Bayh and Harris will say is that it is imperative to finish in the top three: Mr. Sargent Shriver says he would be happy to finish fourth because that will mean he has beaten two others. It is not quite clear who he things *the sixth man is since only the* five named so far are campaigning. However Senator Jackson, though he has made no appearances here, has a slate of delegates pledged to him on the ballot and there is a write-in campaign being conducted on behalf of Senator Humphrey which he has technically disowned. Mr. George Wallace, working hard in neighbouring Massachusetts whose TV and newspapers are received here, could also pick up write-in support. A Right-wing Republican fund raiser is launching a last-ditch effort to persuade Democrats to write in the name of the Republican Mr. John Connally on the Democrat ballot, which is mildly confusing. There are a handful of other candidates, of whom the most interesting is Mrs. Ellen McCormack whose sole platform is the outlawing of abortion.

Inevitably, Mr. Carter is attracting most attention because of his successes so far this year. The easy charm, the Kennedy smile, the southern drawl, go down pretty well in New Hampshire where personal campaigning as opposed to television blitzes is the key to success. His staff is bright, well organised and indefatigable. What worries some people about Mr. Carter is his ability to straddle seemingly every issue without committing himself. He has been the victim of some sharply critical articles in the Press which have accused him of claiming to have done one thing when in fact he did the reverse. Meanwhile, Mr. Carter goes on smiling.

Gathering steam

Popular rumour has it that Mr. Morris Udall's campaign, recently re-organised, is gathering steam after faltering badly in the early caucuses. He, together with Mr. Fred Harris, is the most engaging character here. He has genuine wit and intelligence though he is cutting back on public displays of the former lest he should appear too frivolous. His problem has been lack of public recognition (though he stands six foot high and has only one eye) but intensive personal effort, he hopes, will remedy this and he will be perceived as the most competent of the liberal pack.

Mr. Birch Bayh is a puzzle. He seems to have concluded that the most important thing is to gather endorsements from assorted figures who may or may not be of consequence. Cynics say that he gets more endorsements in a week than most people have hot dinners in a year. But, at the same time, his organisation *is not rated highly. Though* extremely well informed on a wide variety of issues, he comes across too often as glib or even cute.

Mr. Fred Harris, however, is no puzzle at all: his populism is basic—American society i[s] the grip of big corporations that fact is the root of all e[...] Pudgy, faintly scruffy, the ar[...] typal common man who does even stay in hotels in orde[r] save money, he is easily most refreshingly honest ca[...] date, and answers questi[...] very directly. His staff is *tireless as Mr. Carter's*, aln[...] painfully loyal and by far most talkative. Fred, they (never Mr. Harris or the ca[...] date), simply Fred, is cer[...] the nomination will be betw[...] himself and Mr. Jackson [...] Harris staff have the most [...] pect for Jackson's natic[...] organisation yet encounter[...] But they acknowledge [...] Fred's problem is whether not he is perceived to be el[...] able for they know that Demorcratic Party will not 1976 easily take to someb[...] believed to be too extreme.

Joker in the pack

Mr. Shriver is the joker [...] the pack. His rallies and headquarters seem m[...] crowded with Kennedys mostly rather overweight terribly charming young [...] from the better private sch[...] in New England. The Ken[...] connection and his old regi[...] reputation are probably his assets and nobody is quite how strong they are.

The Democratic contest i[s] representative in the sense it only pits candidates of Centre-left (Carter) and Liberal-left (the other f[...] Logically this should be Carter, assuming that the formal campaigns for Wal[...] Jackson and Humphrey ge[...] where, simply because the nobody to the right of him the other hand, it has been for some time that the D[...] crats would have to decide is the strongest liberal c[...] date. So far the contenders been so ridiculously polit[...] each other that it is har[...] discern one from another. Udall solution is for the [...] to look at his hand and "eeny meeny minee mo," w[...] might suit Mr. Udall sinc[...] nick name is Mo. Soone[...] later, however, the gloves have to be removed.

On Tuesday night the pic[...] should be somewhat cle[...] What happens here in the c[...] north must influence what voters do a week later in M[...] chusetts and Vermont, weeks hence in Florida an[...] *three weeks time* in Illinois the time the circuit rea[...] New York on the first Tue[...] in April the field should thinner. The Yankees up will have started the winno[wing] process.

Letters to the Editor

Student life

From Mr. C. Williams

Sir,—Mr. Rogaly (February 10) would have students "work for a living." But the academic year lasts at least 30 weeks (31 at my university); the student will be required to spend five or so weeks of the vacation on academic work, and surely deserves six weeks' holiday, if he is to take advantage of the opportunities for travel, etcetera, that one only has while a student. This leaves only 11 weeks of vacation (split up) and it is particularly difficult to obtain jobs for such short periods.

Students are not afraid of working on building sites or in municipal gardens; most would be more than grateful for a *chance to relieve the tedium of* being unemployed, and earn enough to do something other than sit at home, which is really all the social security benefit enables one to do.

Mr. Rogaly sidesteps one of the iniquities of the system of grants. One can only support oneself while undertaking academic vacation work by claiming social security, by claiming to be available for work when this is not the case. The three pounds one is supposed to save for each week of the vacation is not enough to support one for five weeks. If Mr. Rogaly were a student now, he would realise just how *impossible* it is to save, out of one's grant. £740 is enough for a student to "live decently" on, but only for 30 weeks. Indeed, the chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors stressed his anxiety, when the 1975-76 grant was announced, that students' academic work might suffer, because they *had* to go out to work in the vacation.

Mr. Rogaly suggests repayable loans instead of grants. Does he not see that this would restrict university entrance further? Already some are dissuaded from higher education by the realisation that they may not gain financially over their friends who have gone straight from school into work. How many more will eschew college if they even have to pay for it? If Britain wishes to ensure a further decline in our technical and commercial acumen, and to lower our at present fine academic standards, she should without hesitation offer student loans instead of grants.

I submit that students should receive a maintenance grant for 35 weeks of the year; that the underhand idea that a student can accumulate savings out of this sum should be done away with, and the payment of social security benefit retained where no work is available. Agreed, every effort must be made to find jobs for students. I believe that parents should not be expected to support children who are legally adults and are undertaking study not only for the enjoyment of it but also, though this may be an indirect result, to ensure that the society of tomorrow is as good as, if not better than that of to-day. Those *who really feel that higher educa*tion is merely academic recreation benefiting the individual may ask "Why have universities at all?"

Clive R. Williams,
Dept. of English,
University College, Swansea.

Vacation work

From Miss J. M. Eedle

Sir,—I would like to suggest that before commencing their university or technical studies, students be put through a short course to teach them a practical working skill which will enable *them to obtain vacation work* where they regularly replace holidaying or absent workers.

I work in a professional firm among whose staff is a secretary who takes long unpaid holidays to care for her children during the school holidays. This secretary is so reliable and knowledgeable that the firm prefers to keep her and rely on temps during the school holidays. We have previously had other equally excellent secretaries working to the same system.

Unfortunately the temps are of a very uneven standard and the agencies have sometimes sent girls who are students, who can do a little shorthand/speedwriting and a little typing, but who appear to have no notion either of other office skills or of the pace and standard of work required. If the firm could obtain a holiday replacement worker, the same one for the four or six weeks concerned, with a reasonable degree of the necessary skill, stamina and concentration, life would be much happier for all concerned. The incompetent replacement worker throws a considerable burden on those working alongside him or her.

There may be many employers of all kinds who lack regular reliable replacement workers, and a properly organised scheme could be of enormous benefit. The first steps are presumably to identify the skills most needed and then to organise the appropriate courses.

Perhaps these matters could be investigated and arranged jointly by schools, polytechnics, local industries and chambers of commerce.

J. M. Eedle,
35, Stilehall Gardens, W.4.

Finance for exports

From Mr. J. Tennent

Sir,—Mr. Smith's letter (February 16) is apposite to exports sold on long-term credit but, as he says, on goods sold on credit of up to two years "the preferential rates applying to export business financed by the clearing banks and supported by ECGD" are currently 10 per cent. (9½ per cent. Base Rate plus ½ per cent.).

The finance to which I was *referring in my February 10* letter is short-term, is made in sterling (and is, therefore, protected in the event of further declines in currency rates) and, at the rate pertaining at the end of last week would cost the exporter 6½ per cent. It is available in most City banks against exports quoted in certain foreign currencies.

J. M. Tennent.
Merlin Gables,
4, Brendon Close,
Esher, Surrey.

Promises, promises

From Mr. J. Ross

Sir,—Mr Nottage (February 10) pursues his campaign for the abolition of the funding of pension schemes because it is expensive. He has clearly stated that he thinks it will be cheaper or "more economical" to provide for pensions by pay-as-you-go methods.

In one of these points he is correct and in the other he is wrong. He is correct when he points out that the funding of final salary pension schemes is expensive, and that depreciation of the currency, or inflation, increases the expense. Pensions, however, are *not* provided more cheaply by pay-as-you-go. They cost less now, because you do not pay for them now, but their cost does not change any more than the cost of machinery or plant would change if depreciation were ignored. The accounts would, of course, look different!

The expense of providing final salary pensions in inflationary times may lead to reconsideration of the levels of benefit *or to the search for more realistic* investments—it is perhaps too much to hope that it might be one of the factors which would lead governments to reduce their significant contributions towards currency depreciation. If it leads us to pay-as-you-go pensions it will simply lead us to the pretence that pensions cost less than their real cost, and will enable employers to promise very large inflation-proof pensions without having to experience the unpleasantness of actually paying for them. Their successors would not be able to shelve the problem so easily.

John F. M. Ross.
3, Craiglockhart Park,
Edinburgh.

Pyramids

From Dr. R. Breitenstein

Sir,—In your leader on "An effort to plan ahead" (February 13) you claim that even during the reign of the first Elizabeth economists were recommending public works, even digging holes in the ground.

I would like to point out that the art of job creating began much earlier — in ancient Egypt, where the Pyramids were *really nothing but a gigantic* public works effort. This was confirmed by recent research (Kurt Mendelssohn, Das Ritsel der Pyramide, 1974), but was already known to Lord Keynes, who said in his "General Theory" (p. 129) that "pyramid building, earthquakes, even war may serve to increase wealth" and later (p. 131) traces the global wealth of Egypt to two uneconomic activities "namely, pyramid building as well as the search for the precious metals." Lord Keynes rightly saw the basic problem of the industrial society in the fact that "two pyramids, two masses for the dead, are twice as good as one; but not so two railways from London to York."

Would it not be an idea to borrow the magic formula for wealth from Egypt and start building pyramids over here?

Rolf Breitenstein,
24, Lowndes Street, S.W.1.

Overcharged

From The Managing Director Empexion.

Sir,—During the past 12 months the Post Office has admitted on three separate occasions that they have overcharged us by staggering amounts:—

Telephone account January 13 1975 £1,880.31 subsequently reduced to £470.09 (explanation: as our usage appeared low it had assumed the dials had gone round a second time —in other words it was guessing);

Telex account August 1975 £514.11 subsequently reduced to £501.37 (explanation: a cable costing nearly £13 had been wrongly debited to our account);

Telex account January 1976 £1,095.73 subsequently reduced to £555.73 (explanation: incorrect reading).

On these three bills the total charge has been reduced from £3,490.15 to £1,527.19, representing an initial overcharge of 128.5 per cent.

The Post Office does not provide meters for use by customers on telex lines, and the meters it supplies for telephone users are, to quote the brochure, "not suitable for technical reasons for *checking the total charge for* dialled calls shown in the customer's account." In other words, either the Post Office cannot supply accurate meters (which is incredible) or is unwilling to do so (which seems highly probable).

The polite apologies one receives from the Post Office have long ago ceased to carry any weight, and in any other field the customer would have turned to an alternative source of supply. Yet the Post Office, in a recent Press release, stated that it was to have access to the books and records of four major cable manufacturers "so that it may be satisfied that competition is working satisfactorily." What nauseating hypocrisy!

Let the Conservative Party state now that they will end the Post Office monopoly when returned to power.

I. A. Page.
233-243, Wimbledon Park Road, S.W.18.

Good for Guernsey

From Mr. R. H. Downs

Sir,—To-day at least there is one place where there is service — Guernsey. On Sunday afternoon, February 8, at 12.30 I found that the telex installed in my home was not operating. I telephoned the operator at the Guernsey exchange and informed her of this fact. At about 1.30 p.m. I received a call from the engineer requesting information about the fault and although I told him that it was not vitally essential for it to be repaired then, he said that he would still come and correct it. At 2.00 p.m. *he visited my* home, corrected the fault within five minutes and departed. I know that the Guernsey Post Office is making a profit.

R. H. Downs.
50, Fort George, Guernsey,
Channel Islands.

Unlikely names

From Mr. M. Lunan.

Sir,—I enjoyed Samuel Brittan's article about Otto Klemperer (February 19). May a regular reader suggest that it might be rather fun to see how *many other inherently* unlikely characters could be introduced into your City pages? How about, say, Rameses II, Babe Ruth and Mistinguette for starters? And, of course, Chaiwotsit.

M. J. Lunan.
The Stock Exchange, E.C.2.

LAWSON GILT & WARRANT FUND

This fund combines the volatility of warrants with the safety of dated gilts.

WARRANTS FOR GROWTH
Around 50% is invested in warrants. This gives a highly-geared interest in Ordinary shares.

DATED GILTS FOR SAFETY
The other half is invested in deep discount gilts. Each £1000 o[f] the Fund is represented by £1000 nominal of low-coupon gilt[s] whose price is guaranteed to appreciate as their maturity dates approach.

PERFORMANCE & PROSPECTS
An initial investment of £1000—in May 1974 is now worth over £1330. To date, the Lawson Gilt & Warrant Fund has outperformed both the FT All-Share Index and the FT Governmen[t] Securities Index; any further rise in equities should produce startling rises in the warrants which are now at take-off point.
Remember the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

FIXED PRICE OFFER AT 33·5p UNTIL FRIDAY 27th FEBRUARY 1976
(OR THE DAILY PRICE IF LOWER.)

The Managers reserve the right to close this offer at any time if the true price moves by more than 2½% from this fixed offer price. Telephoned orders will be accepted up to 5.00pm—ring 031-226 3911. A wider range trustee security authorised by the Department of Trade. After this offer units may be bought or sold on Wednesdays. Directors: J Nelmes Crocker, CFY Lawson CA, JG Dickson WS, JRL Cuningham MA, SC Lawson. During an offer units may be bought or sold daily—otherwise weekly on Wednesday.

Application form to invest in Lawson Gilt and Warrant Fund
(not available to residents of the Republic of Eire)
To: Lawson Securities Ltd, 63 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2JG.
Tel: 031-226 3911.
I/We enclose a remittance payable to Lawson Securities Ltd to be invested in accumulation units to the value of £ (units will be allocated to the nearest whole number) (Min holding £100)
Share Exchange and Savings plan mark box for details
I/We declare that I am/we are not resident outside the scheduled territories and I am/we are not acquiring the units as the nominee(s) of any person(s) resident outside those territories. (Those unable to make this declaration should apply through their Bank, Stockbroker or Solicitor in the UK).
signature 1 signature 2
(In case of joint applicants all must sign and attach full names and addresses).
Full Names (Mr. Mrs. Miss)
Address
GW21FT21

هكذا اصل الأصل

efield

re

Shades of honesty and the price statistics

BY WILLIAM KEEGAN

BODY had been well d for the fact that it ake some time for the nent's counter inflation o show up in the statis- ıether the important the policy was regarded July's wage rise curbs ıdden slowdown in the of money supply which urred earlier. A sub- improvement was seen as some time away, because such hefty price s were already there in ier months. The official ion was that the year- figure would get worse got better; not improve ıch before this spring; e down rapidly in the

ience

past six months or so ımment on prices has for this. Indeed it might ioned just how sensible been to give such nce to the "good" news ices "only" rose by 26 per cent. in 12

bile the Press and the ave displayed commend- ence in waiting for the o improve, the Govern- esire to conquer infla- appears to be running the evidence. This is from the way in which ppeared last weekend that the U.K. had ex- l its "biggest reduction on since 1962." Coincid- t did, with the unveil- he Government's Price videly seen as a public attempt to pinpoint the ea of consumer ex- where prices are not likely to rise by more than 5 per cent. in the next six months—the news about the reduction in inflation must have raised many a hollow laugh.

There had been, of course, *no reduction* in the general price level. The cost of living went up a further 1.3 per cent. in January. But because the general slowing down in the rate of increase is gradually having an impact on the 12-month comparison, the rise between January, 1975, and January, 1976, was calculated at 23.4 per cent. and compared with 24.9 per cent., between December, 1974, and December, 1975.

In other words, the difference between these two figures was one and a half percentage points: a drop in the year on year *rate* of inflation, but "the biggest reduction since 1962" only because the index had got up to such heights. In 1962 we were used to 1½ per cent. keeping us going for six months or so. Obviously, attempts to improve the psychological climate of expectations are all to the good, but this sort of chicanery merely devalues the Government's credibility at a time when it needs all the goodwill it can muster.

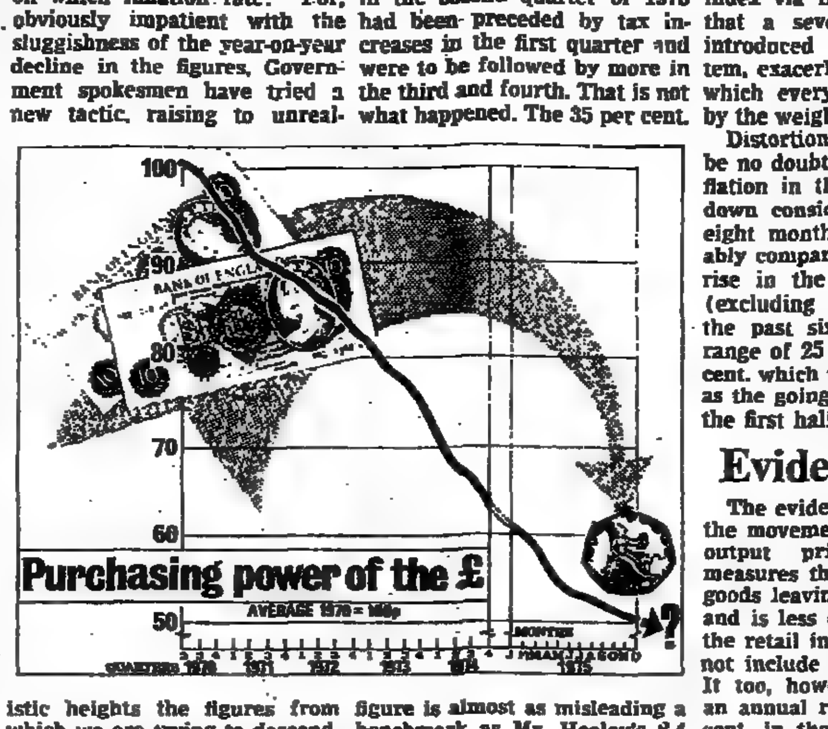
Attention was focused irrevocably on the "year on year" way of looking at the prices figures by the Government's July White Paper "*The Attack on Inflation.*" This made it quite clear that the Government's target was (to) "ensure that by the late summer of next year (that is, 1976) the year on year increase in prices will be no more than 10 per cent., and that by the end of next year it will be down to single figures."

This way of measuring progress on the anti-inflation front was chosen against the background of embarrassing memories of Mr. Denis Healey's notorious claim late in 1974 that the rate of inflation was down to 8.4 per cent. That was a calculation based on experience during three summer months which not only included the favourable effect of good weather on food prices but also the rare benefit of tax reductions: the resulting figure for three months was then compounded to give an idea of what would happen over 12 months, as if the summer would continue during the winter and another three lots of indirect tax reductions were in the offing.

Reeling

Its collective head still reeling from such memories, the Government eschewed the "annual rate" type of calculation in setting its target for the country inflation policy. The irony is that, if more attention had been given to *cleaner* versions of the annual rate comparison, the Government would by now have been able to claim rather more credit for price developments than it has done. For the past six months the index which measures the price movements of everything except "seasonal food" (an omission designed to obviate the random effects of the weather) has risen by "only" 6.6 per cent.—implying an annual rate of increase in prices of 13.6 per cent.

This in itself is a tremendous improvement on the inflation rate experienced in the six months to June last year by any standards. But the question is: on which inflation rate? For, obviously impatient with the sluggishness of the year-on-year decline in the figures, Government spokesmen have tried a new tactic, raising to unrealistic heights the figures from which we are trying to descend.



Thus, the figure being quoted as the inflation rate for the first half of 1975 is 35 per cent. per annum — a figure distorted by the effects of the indirect tax increases and phasing out of subsidies introduced in the April, 1975, Budget. There was general consent at the time that inflation was running at 25 to 30 per cent. per annum. Fanciful figures of 35 per cent. or more were themselves described as misleading by the very departments which are now citing them as the sort of disaster we have escaped from. The 35 per cent. calculation could be justified only if it was assumed that the tax rises in the second quarter of 1975 had been preceded by tax increases in the first quarter and were to be followed by more in the third and fourth. That is not what happened. The 35 per cent. figure is almost as misleading a benchmark as Mr. Healey's 8.4 per cent.

One contribution to solving the presentational problem is the suggestion revived recently by Mr. Peter Oppenheimer, the Oxford economist. This is for the Government to publish, alongside the existing retail prices index, an additional one showing the movement of retail prices excluding taxes on expenditure (such as VAT and excise duties) and subsidies. Such a move would, as Mr. Oppenheimer points out, be more than presentational in its effect: for successive governments have gone to such lengths to avoid raising the retail prices index via indirect tax changes that a severe bias has been introduced into the fiscal system, exacerbating the extent to which everybody feels pressed by the weight of direct taxation.

Distortions aside, there can be no doubt that the rate of inflation in the U.K. has slowed down considerably in the past eight months. One can reasonably compare the 13.6 per cent. rise in the retail price index (excluding seasonal food) in the past six months with the range of 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. which was widely accepted as the going rate of inflation in the first half of 1975.

Evidence

The evidence is backed up by the movement of the wholesale output prices index. This measures the average prices of goods leaving the factory gates and is less comprehensive than the retail index because it does not include services, rates, etc. It too, however, was rising at an annual rate of 25 to 30 per cent. in the first half of 1975. But in the fourth quarter of the year the annual rate of increase was nearer 13 to 14 per cent. There was a spurt in January, which in itself could have been interpreted as the end of the improvement. But January is a month when annual price reviews as opposed to the weekly price increases which seem to occur anyway take place. In the absence of an official index which adjusts for the bunching effect in January, commentators have once again given the Government the benefit of the doubt.

Thus "success," in the sense of reducing the rate of inflation to the 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. range, there does appear to have been, although it will be some time before the year on year figures show a dramatic improvement. The Government, for its part, has stressed the role of the £6 wage limit in causing the deceleration; monetarist economists attribute it entirely to the slowdown in the rate of monetary expansion which took place in 1973-74. This, they forecast, would hit output and employment first, and prices after a timelag.

All are agreed, however, that the rate of inflation has come down appreciably. The big question now is: just how long will this respite last? A surprising number of economists on either side of the monetarist fence is happy to concede that the "rate" of inflation, as measured by an annualised version of a few monthly movements, will touch single figures. Fewer are prepared to wager that, in the White Paper terms, the year on year figure will reach this level. And even fewer seem to accept that single figures will be with us for very long.

Monetary factors, the cumulative effects of the £6 limit, the sheer difficulty of raising prices during a recession: these are likely to be favourable influences on the index in the coming months. On the other side of the coin are the continuing upward movement in food prices, the cost-push from commodity prices which is almost certain to come with the general upturn in the world economy, the next round of nationalised industry price increases, and the "Catch 22" effect of relaxations of the Price Code. Such relaxations are seen as desirable for stimulating industrial investment and for checking part of the long-term decline in company profitability, and could be regarded as doing no more than revealing suppressed inflation. But they will have an obvious effect on the index.

The unions

In the long run, such factors can be considered minor in the context of the major question of whether the unions have been sufficiently frightened by their experience of roaring inflation to be more accommodating in their demands from now onwards.

By reading between the lines of the recent letter of application to the International Monetary Fund it is clear that even the Government itself is not really, in its monetary plans, banking on single figure inflation to last very long.

The main difference of emphasis among economists is between those who believe that at the peak of the next boom inflation rates will once again reach, or even exceed, the levels seen last year and those who, while acknowledging that we are unlikely ever to get back to a 4 or 5 per cent. rate, assume that 1975 was an aberration unlikely to be repeated. The 1970 pound was down to exactly 50p in December, 1975. What markets are agonising over at the moment is the extent of the further depreciation of that pound.

LABOUR NEWS

UM militants urge ti-executive vote

IR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

's 260,000 miners re- ormal working yester- lifting their week-old ban imposed in protest to run down Langwith Derbyshire.

leaders from several mining areas have however, to campaign withdrawing the sanc- pit head ballot is to er the next fortnight. rgency meeting of the National Union of ers' council gave over- support to a resolution ding miners to vote the ballot on whether 's national executive t to call off the action. on's South Wales area so urged a "No" vote for a national delegate a to discuss the union's policy on pit closures.

Derbyshire miners' leaders met yesterday and "reluctantly" agreed to resume normal working, but they, too, urged their members to vote against the executive's action.

Despite these recommendations, the ballot is expected to show a support of the decision to call off the action, which received only partial support even in the militant Yorkshire area.

Langwith is to be run down over the next few years. The National Coal Board maintains that once present seams are exhausted it would not be economic to develop the mine further.

All 880 miners have been offered alternative employment at other NCB pits nearby.

ion chiefs called into yland clash on 'Mole'

LABOUR STAFF

EWARDS at Leyland ably plant at Cowley paigning for formal nt recognition of the of the unofficial joint vards' committee, Mr. nett, nicknamed "The

ive decided to call in officials of the Trans- General Workers' Union malgamated Union of ng Workers in their ith the management.

rnett became chairman actory shop stewards recently won an elec- airman of the factory's the TGWU.

s elected with a of 13, despite a warn- eyland that the company would recognise him only as a steward for the transport department, where he works as a van driver.

Shop stewards maintain they have the right to decide who should preside over their meetings and that if they want Mr. Thornett to attend he should be allowed to.

Leyland, which does not recognise the joint shop stewards' committee, recently told the TGWU that its attitude towards Mr. Thornett was unchanged. It recognises him only as a sectional steward.

The issue came to a head when production workers' shop stewards refused to discuss Leyland's pay proposals unless Mr. Thornett could chair their meeting.

w call for port-users iave voice on docks

TISH Importers Con- is asking Mr. Michael ployment Secretary, to rejection of the it to the Dock Work Bill aimed at giving a seat on the proposed Labour Board. The it was defeated in Com- 13 votes to 11 earlier

ter Bircham, chairman nfederations' Transport e, said yesterday: "We new Board should con- with the smooth run- e ports, which means sion of port users as representatives of the nd employers."

amendments suggested porters include a more efinition of the cargo- zone, which as drafted t could lead to many of interpretation; that recruitment to the would be through the register; the exclusion be extended to all bulk nd some designed to tain parts of the Bill.

gers writes: Transport eral Workers' Union oycotted talks with the ndon Authority yester- the planned closure of India and Millwall The union, which is opposed to the closures, wanted dockers' rank-and-file representatives to take part in the talks.

The PLA could not agree to this request without first discussing it with its other unions. Further talks are to be held with the unions next week, by which time the issue of lay representation may have been resolved.

Textile workers seek £6

UNION LEADERS of 80,000 Lancashire textile workers called yesterday for an industry-wide pay rise of £6 a week and pledged resistance to moves by employers to link negotiations with wider issues on future employment.

The unions claimed that preconditions proposed by the employers include one allowing any employer "who can demonstrate his inability to afford such an increase to discuss the matter with the respective trade union with a view to contracting out of a settlement."

Employers also want union acceptance of no obstacle to employment of women on night work and multi-shifts, and removal of restrictions on overtime voluntary working.

Discussions were adjourned after a joint meeting.

GLC may tax office car parks to curb motorists

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

IN THE WAKE of proposed higher fares for bus and Underground services, the Greater London Council is now considering measures to curb the private motorist.

A report to next Tuesday's Transport Committee recommends that large office car parks should be taxed— perhaps at £6 a week for each space. The aim is to cut office parking spaces from 51,000 to about 20,000 which, it is estimated, would reduce rush-hour traffic by between 15 and 22 per cent.

Our intention is to clamp down on the 30,000 office "perk" places where commuters' cars stand idle all day and go on the roads only for the journey to and from work," Mr. Jim Daly, the chairman of the Transport Committee, said last night. Most of the journeys could be made by public transport and served only to delay essential traffic.

Some exemptions

Mr. Daly maintained that great care would be taken to ensure that London's trade and commerce was not injured. To safeguard such interests certain spaces could be exempt from control and car parks with fewer than 10 places could be wholly excluded.

The Committee is being asked by its officers to urge the Environment Secretary to seek the legislation necessary to implement such action. If approved the legislation might obviously benefit other towns and cities.

Once law, the first area could be introduced within two years, and the likely zone for the tax is from Vauxhall Bridge to Marble Arch, along Marylebone Road, Euston Road and City Road to Tower Bridge and the Elephant and Castle.

London Transport yesterday released details of the proposed average 25 per cent. increase in bus and Underground fares from July 18.

Rank seeks finance director

BY MARGARET REID

RANK ORGANISATION, the entertainments and office copier group where important management changes are planned—including the retirement as chairman next year of Sir John Davis—is advertising for the new post of finance director.

The advertisement, foreshadowed recently by Sir John, is through Peat Marwick Mitchell, acting as management consultants, and identifies the post by naming Rank. Senior management posts are more usually advertised anonymously.

The quest for a finance director is the latest step in the process of change in Rank's top management which has been under way for some months. September saw the abrupt departure of Mr. Graham Dowson, chief executive, after a Boardroom row.

After Mr. Dowson left, Sir John and Mr. Russell Evans, then promoted from company secretary to a new post of managing director, were the only remaining executive directors. Last month, it was announced that Mr. Harry Smith—chairman of Bridon—would become deputy chairman of Rank on March 30 this year.

Review committee

Mr. Smith, who is to take over the chair from Sir John in March next year, is, meanwhile, heading a special committee of directors to review the management structure of the company.

These developments concerning the overall direction of the group — as well as the plans, announced last month, to give votes to the "A" shares — were preceded by a widespread wish in the City for changes.

A Rank spokesman said yesterday that the salary of the new finance director would be "negotiable." It is expected to be in the region of £25,000 a year.

The advertisement says the candidate chosen will "be involved with the senior management of the group in major investment decisions and the development of long-range strategy."

NEB adds to Boveri Kent stake

BY MARGARET REID

FRESH confirmation that the National Enterprise Board is stepping up its holding in Brown Boveri Kent, the process control and instrument business now under Swiss control, towards "associate" status came yesterday with the disclosure of a fresh move by the Board.

The NEB, which is already buying the Government's stake in Brown Boveri Kent—and has subscribed for new shares offered to this holding under the recent £2.1m. one-for-four rights issue—has now purchased further "rights" shares.

The amount bought in this way, through the market, was exactly equivalent to the "rights" shares offered to Rank Organisation, another sizeable shareholder, but not taken up by Rank.

As reported on Thursday, it is expected that the Rank holding, 9.1 per cent. of the capital before the rights issue, will pass to the NEB. It is thought that this awaits final agreement on terms.

As Rank has not itself taken up its "rights," the NEB's latest move, though through the market, produces the same effect as though the Rank "rights" had been renounced in its favour.

If the NEB goes ahead with the purchase of the Rank holding, its stake in Brown Boveri Kent would rise to about 21 per cent., compared with the 51 per cent. of the Swiss group Brown Boveri, which joined with part of the old George Kent to form Brown Boveri Kent in 1974.

The NEB's moves and expected moves would establish a public British interest of associate status—that is, of more than a fifth—in Brown Boveri Kent, now that the Swiss holding has risen from 49 per cent. to a majority 51 per cent. as a result of the rights issue.

The Industrial Reorganisation Corporation, the NEB's somewhat similar State-backed predecessor under the previous Labour Government, played a key part in 1968 in helping Kent to absorb Cambridge Instruments, in successful take-over battle against Rank.

During that contest—of which both the State and Rank interests are legacies—the IRC, for the first and only time, bought shares in the market itself.

However, the purchase of the new "rights" shares by the NEB does not appear a market operation of the same character, but rather a move to maintain the size (after the rights issue) of the stake expected to be bought from Rank.

Land Bill expected next week

BY RICHARD EVANS, LOBBY CORRESPONDENT

THE GOVERNMENT Bill implementing the development land tax is to be introduced into the Commons shortly, probably next week.

The appropriate ways and means resolution was on yesterday's Commons order paper.

It will be debated late one night next wek, before publication of the Bill.

Main Government speakers will be Mr. Edmund Dell, Paymaster General and Mr. Denzil Davies, Minister of State at the Treasury.

The controversial Development Land Tax will replace the development gains charge introduced in the Finance Act, 1974

It will be chargeable whether development value is realised on a transaction or by the carrying out of development. The tax will be payable on the development value realised.

The House Builders' Federation said last night that the Government's decision to reduce the proposed rate of development land tax for the first £150,000 worth of development value realisations was "a welcome step in the right direction."

This should help to reduce the danger of very severe shortages of housing land in a year or so.

"The decision certainly does not mean, however, that the possibility of such shortages has completely disappeared," the federation said.

The White Paper on public spending made it clear that only very limited amounts of land were likely to be made available to house builders under the Community Land Act during the next few years.

"Indeed no land at all is expected to be sold under this scheme in 1976-77, while only 400 acres are to be provided in 1977-78.

"In other words, the land supplied in this way in the next two years will be enough for a maximum 6,000 houses, assuming, firstly, that all the land that is made available is used for residential purposes—which is by no means certain—and, secondly, that the average densities of the developments involved is about 15 units to the acre."

Economic Diary

MONDAY—NUR executive committee meets to discuss proposed British Rail fare rises and service cuts. Meeting of EEC Foreign Ministers on political co-operation, Luxembourg. Mr. Michael Foot, Secretary for Employment, speaks at national conference on Employment Protection, Hilton Hotel, W.1.

TUESDAY—Junior hospital doctors hold national meeting to reaffirm their opposition to proposals made by Mrs. Barbara Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, Central Hall, Westminster. M. Francois-Xavier Ortoli, president of European Communities Commission, meets President Ford in Washington.

WEDNESDAY — CBI publish Budget representations to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Denis Healey. House of Lords debate on White Paper on overseas development—The changing emphasis on British aid policies.

THURSDAY—House of Commons debates Civil Aviation policy guidelines. Employment in production industries (Dec.). Overtime and short-time working in manufacturing industries (Dec.). Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes (Jan.). Energy trends.

FRIDAY—Sales and orders in the engineering industries (Nov.). Construction — new orders (Dec.). Bricks and cement production (Jan.).

BACKDATED

Act before 5th APRIL to claim extra tax relief now

Our new Plan enables you to get off to a flying start and build up a small fortune for the future.

For every £10 you pay during this financial year, ending 5th April, you can claim £1·75 tax relief. So you can get the maximum advantage of this tax relief, we are making it possible, *with the special application form below*, for you to backdate your monthly payments further than ever before—to the start of the current financial year.

Suppose you want to save £10 a month and you have £110 available for investment. By backdating your Plan, you can send us a cheque for 11 months' payments (£110) and claim tax relief of £19·25.

We will send you a form to take care of all future monthly payments automatically, and you can continue to claim tax relief throughout the investment period of your Plan.

How much will my Plan be worth? Unit Trusts are the best way for most of us to invest in stocks and shares owing to their full-time professional management and widely spread portfolio. With an M&G Unit Trust Assurance Plan you pay £10 a month or more for up to 20 years. How your investment builds up depends on the growth in the value of the units bought with your payments, reflecting both capital appreciation and ploughed-back income. As an example, a £10 Plan taken out with the M&G General Trust Fund 20 years ago would now be worth £5,784, having cost a total of £2,040.

Pound cost averaging. Regular monthly investment gives you the benefits of "Pound Cost Averaging." By this method, when you invest a regular amount, you buy more units when the price is low than when it is high. Thus you build up a holding at an average price lower than the average of unit prices for the period and gain a genuine arithmetical advantage to your personal investment planning.

Long-term build-up. Unit Trust Assurance is designed for long-term investment. But you can stop your Plan or cash it in at any time. Clearly, the longer you keep it going the greater the likely benefit.

If you do cash in or stop your payments during the first four years there is a penalty, and the tax authorities require us to make a deduction. So you should not consider the Plan for less than five years. Higher-rate tax payers are advised not to stop payments or to cash in within ten years, for tax reasons.

Life Assurance Cover. As soon as your application is accepted your life is assured for 180 times your normal monthly payment. So £10 a month gives you £1,800 life cover.

M&G—Unit Trust Founders. M&G were the first company in Britain to introduce the unit trust form of saving, in 1931. Today we look after over £500,000,000 for some 300,000 savers and investors.

M&G employ no salesmen. Costs are low and as much as from 86% to 94% of your payments, depending on your starting age, is invested, except in the first two years when we invest 20 percentage points less to meet setting-up expenses.

Your regular investment in the M&G General Trust Fund (valued at over £60,000,000) is spread among a carefully chosen selection of stocks and shares, including many blue chips—with the profits and dividends ploughed back for the benefit of the investors.

How to join. Complete the application form below and return it to us with your cheque for the first payment. The maximum starting age is 54 (women 58). If you are 50 or over, or want to save more than £20 per month, or cannot sign Part I of the Declaration, delete that part of the declaration and we will send you our standard proposal form.

SPECIAL FORM

BACKDATED POLICIES CAN ONLY BE ISSUED IN RESPECT OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED NOT LATER THAN 5th APRIL, 1976.

To: M&G Trust (Assurance) Ltd, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Tel. 01-626 4588.

I WISH TO SAVE £ ·00 EACH MONTH (minimum £10), and I enclose my cheque for £ ·00 representing [ ] monthly payments (not more than eleven), payable to M&G Trust (Assurance) Ltd.

I understand that my money will be invested in the M&G General Trust Fund.

SURNAME (Mr/Mrs/Miss)

FULL FORENAME(S)

ADDRESS

POST CODE

OCCUPATION

DATE OF BIRTH

NAME OF USUAL DOCTOR to whom reference may be made

ADDRESS

ARE YOU AN EXISTING M&G PLAN HOLDER? YES/NO

Declaration. PART I I declare that, to the best of my belief, I am in good health and free from disease, that I have not had any serious illness or major operation, that I do not engage in any hazardous sports or pursuits, that I do not engage in aviation except as a fare-paying passenger on recognised routes, and that no proposal on my life has ever been adversely treated.

PART II I agree that this declaration and any declaration made by me in connection with this proposal shall be the basis of the contract between me and M&G Trust (Assurance) Limited, and that I will accept their customary form of policy.

SIGNATURE DATE

Registered in England No. 68196. Registered Office: M&G Trust (Assurance) Ltd, 91/99 New London Road, Chelmsford CM2 0PY.

This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

BA 530216

M&G

Members of the Life Offices' Association.

FOUNDERS OF BRITAIN'S UNIT TRUSTS

COMPANY NEWS + COMMENT

Marchwiel tops £7m.—pays forecast 2.77p

TURNOVER FOR the year to October 31, 1975, of Marchwiel Holdings expanded from £98.27m. to £144.32m., and pre-tax profit advanced from £5.23m. to £7.01m., after £1.13m., against £0.87m., for the first half.

A final dividend of 1.95p lifts the net total from 2.596225p to 2.770625p, as forecast.

	1974-75 £	1973-74 £
Turnover	144,321,000	98,272,000
Profit before tax	7,014,118	5,232,612
Taxation	3,565,797	2,515,510
Extraord. credits	147,046	*785,811
Minority ints.	11,730	30,354
Attrib.	3,506,097	1,960,675
Dividends	482,404	444,922
Undistributed	3,023,693	1,515,733
Trading surplus is shown after charging:		
Directors' emol.	235,302	208,533
Depreciation	3,792,939	3,258,177
Auditors' remun.	28,006	19,561
Bank & short term interest	266,494	222,138
Hire plant, etc.	9,408,141	7,394,437
Reduction timber stocks prvn.	—	191,919
And after crediting:		
Share assocs.	75,990	78,773
Incms. from inv.	202,015	471,711
Int. received	731,443	896,054
Property income	22,334	29,606

* Debits.

The company is engaged in building, civil engineering and public works contracting. It owns the capital of Sir Alfred McAlpine and Son.

See Lex

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

	Current payment	Date of payment	Corresponding div.	Total for year	Total last year
Carliol Trust ...2nd int.	2.05	April 2	1.8	2.75	2.5
Corn Exchange	0.81(a)	April 1	—	1.62	—
English & Scottish Invest. 2nd int.	2.75(d)	—	2.25	3.75	3.25
English & Scottish B shares	0.18	—	0.18	0.18	0.18
Greaves Organisation int.	Nil	—	Nil	—	0.2
Marchwiel	1.95	March 5	1.82	2.77	2.6
Ritz Hotel	Nil	—	4.69	Nil	4.69
Neepsend int.	0.84	—	0.84	—	2.93
Joseph Stocks int.	1	April 2	1	—	3.25
Tor Investment int.	1.79(b)	—	1.68	—	4.11(c)
Tyneside Invest. 2nd int.	2.05	April 2	1.8	2.75	2.5
Wedgwood int.	3.25	April 2	3	—	5.1
Wintrust int.	1.03	April 5	0.97	—	2.92

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated.

* Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. (a) As forecast in September 1975 introduction. (b) To reduce disparity. (c) Included 0.325p bonus. (d) Includes 0.5p (nil) special dividend.

Corn Exchange meets its forecasts

The Corn Exchange, whose shares were introduced to the market last September, has met its targets for the year 1975.

Profit has come out at £249,896, compared with some £240,000 forecast and with £217,384 achieved in the previous year. The final dividend is the promised 0.8125p for a total of 1.625p net.

After tax £133,000 (£113,000) and £17,694 for professional fees connected with the listing, net profit was £99,202 (£104,384). Earnings are given as 4.20p (3.75p) per 10p share.

Chairman Mr. Frank Winter says the constant increase in every type of expenditure is reflected in the result but, despite this, the company is in a progressively strong financial position.

The decision to reconstruct the Market Area and Subscription Room has been fully justified. With the additional rental income from offices, the problem concerning cash flow experienced by many property companies has never given the Corn Exchange cause for anxiety.

In view of the current letting situation in the City and elsewhere, Mr. Winter says the company is in a very favourable position. Despite a decline in office rentals since the beginning of the year and the increased availability of office space generally, the present leases "assure us of a steady income for some years."

Meeting, Corn Exchange Building, Mark Lane, E.C., March 11 at 11 a.m.

Greaves making up lost ground

FOR THE six months to September 30, Greaves Organisation reports a pre-tax profit of £38,968 compared with £14,631 for the corresponding period and a loss of £1.46m. for the whole of last year. The profit recovery was aided by lower interest payable of £824,944 against £1,202,470.

Half yearly turnover fell from £6.58m. to £5.7m. Tax took £20,250 (£7,250) leaving the net balance up from £7,381 to £18,718.

Again there is no interim dividend. The directors hope to be able to recommend payment of a final after "satisfactory" results for the full year have been achieved. Last year's final was 0.2p net.

Group borrowings were reduced to less than £10m. by September 30, and now stand at £8.25m. borrowing will be further reduced during the remainder of the current year with attendant decrease in interest payable, state the directors.

The company's interests are in house and commercial development, contracting and plant hire.

● comment

A 31 per cent. drop in interest charges, and the absence of any further stock write-offs, appears to have set Greaves on the recovery road in the first six months of 1975-76. The group is aiming to get total borrowings down to around £7½m. by the year end (against £13.2m. in the last accounts) and claims that this reduction is being made possible by an increased level of house sales and the £1½m. proceeds from the recent sales of the commercial interests. Greaves expects to push housing sales up from 900 units to between 1,150 and 1,200 in the 12 months to March, 1976, and although it is apparently working on much lower margins this year than last, an anticipated £1.2m. drop in full year interest charges would point to a full year pre-tax level of about £600,000. This would cover a 27.4 per cent. dividend (equal to that paid in 1973-74) 1½ times net but a potential yield of 15.2 per cent. at 18p is rightly taking nothing for granted.

W. W. Hall first half recovery

THE FIRST HALF recovery, noted last year by building material distributors W. W. Hall, emerges as profit of £102,000 against a loss of £99,000 in the same period previously, and the chairman Mr. H. W. Hall believes this improvement will continue.

Last November, when reporting a net loss of £348,457 for the year ended April 30, 1975, the directors said management accounts for the first six months of the current year indicated that the group was once more trading profitably.

Again there is no interim dividend—the last payments totalled 2.1105p net in 1973-74 and included a 0.7p interim.

Turnover for the first six months rose from £5.79m. to £6.72m. No tax is charged (£51,000 credit)—in the corresponding six months there was also an exceptional debit of £64,000.

● comment

It was difficult to project how long it would take for W. W. Hall to recover from its computer debacle of a year ago when inaccurate billing and other programming muddles lost so much customer goodwill. But claims that the house is in order again and that business is already returning are borne out by the £201,000 recovery back into profits on a near 16 per cent. sales rise. Rationalisation has helped, but more important perhaps has been diversification into a broader range of builders' materials and the addition of DIY supplies. Also worthwhile has been a company decision to maintain its own 30-odd fleet of vehicles. Margins remain very tight but profits in the second half are expected at least to match those of the first. And since some 60 per cent. of shares are held by directors' families, who would almost certainly waive any dividend, a small final payout seems just possible for the first time since 1974. With the shares at 22p, the company is capitalised at £1.2m.

Neepsend midway downturn

PRE-TAX PROFIT of steel and steel product manufacturers, Neepsend, decreased from £862,000 to £781,000, on sales up from £6.94m. to £8.57m. for the half year to September 30, 1975.

Due to the continuing recession the trading results for the year will inevitably be lower than those achieved last year—pre-tax profit £1.99m.—but the directors expect to present a "reasonable picture" having regard to the extremely difficult circumstances under which industry is operating, says the chairman, Mr. S. L. Speight.

As before the interim dividend is 0.8375p net per 25p share. Last year's total was 2.93125p.

	Half year 1975 £000	1974 £000
Sales	8,567	6,935
Pre-tax profit	781	862
Taxation	374	443
Retained	296	290

● comment

Neepsend's first half sales growth of 24 per cent., although half the rate of the previous six months, is healthy enough. But margins have fallen sharply, by over a quarter, and left pre-tax profits nearly a tenth lower. In comparison with the explosive growth of 1974-75, this is a disappointing performance and the shares dropped back by 8p to 46p last night. On the question of margins, the group blames rising steel costs and price controls, on the one hand, and the need to build up its share of a slack market, on the other. Certainly, the side of the business least affected so far—alloy production and castings, about a quarter of last year's profits—is unhindered by U.K. price controls. Prospects are not brilliant but second half profits should be at least equal to the first; so £1.6m. pre-tax for the year seems the minimum expectation, or a prospective p/e of 8. But a yield of 10 per cent., covered nearly twice, could be the main attraction, after such a sharp market reaction.

Creditors of Lines Bros. may get 75p

Unsecured creditors of Lines Bros. will not be discharged in full but their final total may be in the region of 75p in the pound, the joint liquidators state.

Having regard to current funds available, they announce a third interim dividend of 15p in the pound to unsecured creditors making 55p so far.

There is a third distribution on the 7 per cent. unsecured loan stock 1980-85 of about 15.38 per cent. of the principal making 56.40 per cent., and a third distribution on the 8½ per cent. unsecured loan stock 1987-92 of about 15.18 per cent. of the principal making 56.66 per cent.

AGM of members and creditors will be held on March 9.

Tate & Lyle soundly based

IN HIS annual statement Mr. John O. Lyle, chairman of Tate and Lyle, says he believes the company's expansion policy has been wisely planned and effectively implemented.

The major position held in many different businesses and its broad geographical base coupled with a sound financial position, "should enable us to cope better than most British companies," he declares.

Mr. Lyle will bring holders up to date with the group's progress at the AGM.

The full preliminary statement for the year to September 30, 1975, with observations on prospects, were reported on January 23, showing an expansion in group pre-tax profit from £31.09m. to £47.49m., on a turnover up from £882.3m. to £1,274.39m. A group statement of value added is as follows:—

	1974-75 £m.	1973-74 £m.
Turnover	1,274.4	882.3
Bought-in materials, etc.	1,154.4	581.4
Balance	120.0	300.9
Share associate	1.9	1.7
Investment revenue, etc.	7.6	5.4
Value added	129.5	308.0
Interest on loans	8.7	6.1
Dividends	4.7	4.4
Minority interests	1.3	1.4
Taxes on profits	23.4	15.4
Wages, pensions, etc.	62.9	32.8
Special payment pension	—	3.7
Depreciation	10.4	9.1
Retained profits	18.3	9.9

Fixed assets increased from £112.2m. to £124.08m., and contracts for capital expenditure amounted to £28.67m. (£31.18m.). Net current assets advanced from £22.59m. to £74.38m., of which short-term deposits and loans accounted for £24.2m. (£19.58m.), and cash £12.66m. (£8.35m.). Current liabilities and provisions included secured bank loans and overdrafts £1.29m. (£0.31m.) and unsecured £31.29m. (£28.48m.); short-term loans unsecured £1.24m. (£0.55m.).

Meeting, Europa Hotel, Grosvenor Square, W., March 17, at 11.30 p.m.

No interim dividend from Deundi

Though Deundi Holdings expects to show a small profit for 1975, it will not resume dividend payment, stopped since 1970, yet, the Board tells members in the interim report.

The decision not to declare an interim is in accordance with the policy of rebuilding working capital and reserves depleted by the losses of subsidiary Deundi Tea, whose main business is the production of tea in Bangladesh, between 1971 and 1973.

Directors state that it is not yet possible to give any firm indication of the subsidiary's results, but the drop in crop and the fall in the market during the last months of 1975 together with the devaluation of the Taka must mean that last year's profit level will not be achieved.

However, the prospects of receiving a small remittance from Bangladesh in the near future have improved as a result of recent negotiations between the industry and that country's government, they add.

Warren Tea Holdings has a substantial holding in the company's equity.

Results due next week

After a premature start two weeks ago with Lloyds, the clearing banks' reporting season gains momentum with National Westminster and Midland. Also reporting comes BOC, F. W. Woolworth, Hoover, Johnson Matthey and Spirella.

Contrary schools of thought exist on whether special "bad debt" provisions, partly for FNFC, will figure in Natwest's and Midland's finals due on Tuesday and Friday respectively. "Bad debt" forecasts range between £25m. and £33m. for Natwest and £5m. to £10m. for Midland. With other considerations, the optimists point to a £119m. pre-tax figure against £120.3m. in 1974 for Natwest and £87m. against £96.2m. for Midland. An average expectation for Natwest would be around £115m. and for Midland £85m. Both figures would anyway reflect the further big jump in costs, including wages, during the year and a continuing low level of domestic lending activity. This would have been poorly compensated for by the average rise in deposit-lending margins from 2.9 per cent. in the first half to 3.7 per cent. in the second. Midland, however, should have been helped by its rights issue of last March.

With the gases division continuing as a growth area for U.K. business and Airco of the U.S. doing better than expected after its difficult period last year during the steel recession, BOC seems set to achieve a profits improvement again this year of at least 10 per cent. The first quarter results due on Wednesday are expected to reflect this trend compared with last year's pre-tax figure of £9.6m. and will also show additional benefit from the £22.8m. rights issue of last June.

Following on from a particularly strong third quarter, when Woolworth's pre-tax profits jumped by 76 per cent. to £10m. against an admittedly depressed period, fourth quarter profits are expected to have climbed by two-fifths. Sales during the all-important final three months, taking in Christmas, probably improved over the comparable period by some 20 per cent. judging by Department of Trade statistics on variety stores. So full year pre-tax profits should be in the region of £42m. against £30.6m. last year and £43.6m. in 1974. The preliminary results are due on Friday.

Although Hoover's nine months figures in November revealed that the recovery over the strike-affected previous year was continuing with profits up from £8.3m. pre-tax to £14.6m. (within which the third quarter saw a rise of £1.4m. to £2.9m.) trading conditions generally were clearly worsening. Overseas demand was particularly weak while in the U.K. margins were down almost 6 points to 11½ per cent. Full year profits of around £18m. pre-tax compared with £4.9m. last time, therefore seem the most that can be hoped for on Monday.

Johnson Matthey's first quarter profits slid by 37 per cent., but the next three months improved to leave the pre-tax level after six months 31 per cent. lower. The group's indication that "the second half of the year will be a little better than the first" will probably prove conservative, and the nine months figures due on Wednesday should show a decline in profits of less than a third. During the second quarter the platinum producer price was at a high level, having since been reduced by nearly a tenth in October, but even so the third quarter profits should better the July-September outturn to leave the figure for nine months at £9m. (£12.9m.) pre-tax.

Spirella's annual profits on Tuesday will contain the first contribution from Vantona which was acquired in August. In its offer document Spirella—which produced interim profits of £1.1m. against £0.9m. pre-tax—indicated a full year pre-tax level of not less than £2.3m., while Vantona (£0.9m. half-time against £1.5m.) forecast profits for the year to March 27, 1976, of £3.3m. against £2.4m. This projection did not, however, receive the support of the full Board. Assuming that Spirella meets its forecast and that around £2.3m. will be consolidated from Vantona the overall pre-tax profit should be around £4.7m.

Also coming next week is Nottingham Manufacturing with its full year results on Tuesday, and Gillett Brothers Discount with its preliminary on Wednesday. Alexander Howden Group is due to announce its annual results on Thursday, and has already forecast pre-tax profits of £10m. exclusive of the recently acquired Morice Tozer and Beck and Halford Shead. Allen Harvey and Ross will reveal first half figures on Friday.

Company	Announcement due	Dividend (p)* Last year Int.	Final	This year Int.
FINAL DIVIDENDS				
Allen Harvey & Ross	Friday	3.5	10	[illegible]
Anglo-Welsh Invest. Tst. (Contn.)	Monday	0.35	1.027	0.35
Ashmole Investment Trust	Wednesday	0.335	0.915	0.335
Brighton and Hove Stadium	Friday	0.7	1.279	0.7
Derek Crouch (Contractors)	Thursday	1.005	2.0	0.009
Drayton Commercial Investment	Monday	1.313	2.038	1.313
Evode Holdings	Friday	0.538	1.206	0.65
Gillett Brothers Discount	Wednesday	1.675	5.035	4.875
Hoover	Monday	5.71	5.64	5.94
Horizon Midlands	Thursday	0.7	1.0	0.745
Alexander Howden Group	Thursday	1.0	1.168	1.0
Kellock Holdings	Tuesday	—	Nil	—
Kleeman Industrial Holdings	Thursday	1.5	2.395	1.61
Lamson Industries	Thursday	1.18	1.58	1.18
London City and Westcliff Properties	Tuesday	Nil	0.65	Nil
Madame Tussaud's	Thursday	0.26	0.571	0.3
Midland Bank	Friday	4.2	6.556†	4.2
National Westminster Bank	Tuesday	4.0	4.013	4.269
Nottingham Manufacturing	Tuesday	0.734	1.669	0.734
J. & L. Randall	Monday			
Ransomes Sims & Jefferies	Thursday	2.1	4.412	2.3
Rea Brothers	Wednesday	0.647	0.667	0.7
St. Andrew Trust	Monday	1.5	2.25	[illegible]
Silentbloc Holdings	Thursday	0.336	0.964	0.353
Spirella Group	Tuesday	1.138	1.671	1.138
F. J. Wallis	Thursday	0.95	1.97	1.045
West Coast and Texas Regional Inv. Tst.	Tuesday			
Woodhouse & Rixson (Holdings)	Tuesday	0.564	0.944	
F. W. Woolworth	Friday	1.222	2.173	1.222

Company	Announcement due	Dividend (p)* Last year Int.	Final	This year Int.
INTERIM DIVIDENDS				
Anglo-Continental Investment and Finance	Monday	Nil	Nil	
Argyle Securities	Monday	Nil	Nil	
Matthew Clark & Sons (Holdings)	Wednesday	1.2	3.87	
G. M. Firth (Metals)	Friday	2.6	3.0(a)	
Footwear Industry Investments	Monday	1.05	2.189	
Lake & Elliot	Friday	1.3	1.828	
Lothian Investment Trust	Wednesday	0.438	0.438	
Rosgill Holdings	Tuesday	1.05	1.58	
Shaw Carpets	Friday	0.575	1.199(a)	
Smith Bros.	Friday	1.5	2.3	
Textured Jersey	Thursday	Nil	Nil	
Thames Plywood Manufacturers	Thursday	0.7	1.6	
Town & City Properties	Friday	Nil	0.81	
United Real Property Trust	Wednesday	0.573	2.0758	
Wiggins Construct	Thursday	0.612	0.857	
Bond Worth Holdings	Monday	1.026	2.051	
INTERIM FIGURES ONLY				
BOC International	Wednesday‡			
Electronic Machine	Wednesday			
Johnson Matthey & Co.	Wednesday (b)			
Scottish Investment Trust	Thursday‡			

* Dividends shown net, pence per share, and adjusted for any intervening scrip issue. † Second interim. ‡ Includes special interim. § First quarter figures. ¶ Shaw Carpets. (a) Declaration of dividend only. (b) Third quarter figures.

UNIT TRUSTS

Hambro Managed Fund offer

Hambro Life Assurance is offering investors the Hambro Managed Bond this week-end with a minimum investment of £1,000. The underlying portfolio is a three-way mix of equities, property and fixed-interest, designed to provide security of capital with good growth prospects. The guaranteed death benefit depends on entry age, varying from 250 per cent. of the outlay at age 30 to 104 per cent. at age 70. Investors looking for income can use the 5 per cent. tax-free withdrawal facilities.

● comment

Investors wishing to maximise the return on their investments should be prepared to switch from one sector to another at the right time. The only problem is knowing when to switch and into which sector. The Hambro Managed Bond offers this facility to investors backed by a team of experts. The defensive strength of this mix was shown during the stock market slump of 1973-1974 when the price of the bond fell by less than that experienced by the FT-All Share Index and since then the price has climbed steadily to approach its all-time high. The withdrawal facility is particularly useful for higher-rate taxpayers seeking income.

Prospectus Page 3

M & G PLAN

M and G Trust (Assurance) is launching a new version of its regular savings plan—the M and G Unit Trust Assurance Plan. This is designed to enable investors to get the maximum possible tax relief for the current year by backdating the start of the plan up to a maximum of 11 monthly payments. For example, an investor wishing to pay £10 per month (the minimum) can invest £110 now and get life assurance tax relief on this amount. The guaranteed life cover is 180 times the monthly outlay and the underlying fund is the M and G General Trust Fund.

● comment

One of the advantages of making regular savings in unit trusts by means of a life assurance plan is the tax relief obtaintable on the premiums. But this does not apply to lump sum payments and investors starting now could only get two months payment in the current tax year. M and G is offering a facility whereby investors can make a lump sum payment to the M and G Unit Trust Assurance Plan and have the start back-dated, so that they can get maximum tax relief in the current year. The underlying fund is very much a middle-of-the-road trust which has a good track record for several decades.

Prospectus Page 13

BROWN SHIPLEY

The Brown Shipley Unit Fund is on offer this week-end from the merchant bank Brown Shipley. The fund, which currently yields an estimated 5.7 per cent. gross, aims at both capital growth and income with its portfolio influenced to a certain extent by the financial sector—about one-quarter of the ttal. The fund was launched in 1970 as an "in house" fund for the bank's clients and is now available to the public at large. The minimum investment is £250 and accumulation units are available.

● comment

Over the past decade several merchant banks have offered their "in house" funds to the general public some time after the initial launch so that they can point to a track record and Brown Shipley is a late entrant to the game. The present performance of the Brown Shipley Unit Trust has been useful, but for investors seeking income it offers a yield very little above average.

Prospectus Page 9

JASCOT NORTH SEA & GENERAL

Arbuthnot Securities is offering the Jascot North Sea and General Fund to investors this week-end, yielding an estimated 3.2 per cent. gross. The aim of the fund is capital growth and it has major investments in those companies which will benefit from the oil flow from the North Sea. The minimum investment is £200, accumulation units are available and there are both a share exchange and a monthly saving scheme.

● comment

The Jascot North Sea and General Fund is one of the few specialists funds aimed at benefitting from the forecast North Sea boom. As far as investors are concerned this is taking some time to appear, but the potential is still there and it could prove a money spinner.

Prospectus Page 18

Ebor Commodity

Ebor Securities, a member of the Save and Prosper Group, is offering investors the Ebor Commodity Share Unit Trust this week-end with a minimum investment of £300. The aim of the trust is to achieve capital growth and a reasonable level of income by investment in the shares of companies throughout the world that are involved in the producing and marketing of commodities. The estimated current yield of the fund is 25.5 per cent. gross. Investors can have the income from the fund reinvested and there is a share exchange plan available.

● comment

Commodity shares were once reckoned to be among the more speculative of the equity market and usually provided a high yield. But over the past decade, the position has changed somewhat in that such shares have become respectable providing much more stability in growth and given a much lower yield. The investment merits of commodity investment have been put forward recently as the worldwide economic recovery gets underway and holding commodity shares is a more stable method of benefiting from this expected boom than going directly into commodities. The Ebor Commodity Share Unit Trust, the largest in this field, has given its unitholders a good long term return since its inception in 1965. Investors should however note that the prices of such shares are more volatile than equities in general.

Prospectus Page 5

LAWSON GILT & WARRANT

Lawson Securities is also offering investors this week-end the Lawson Gilt and Warrant Fund. The underlying portfolio is a mixture of short-dated gilts and warrants, so arranged that the nominal value of the gilt holdings is at all times at least equal to the total invested in units. The minimum investment is £100 and both a share exchange and a savings plan are available.

● comment

The Lawson Gilt and Warrant Fund is a curious hybrid of gilts, which provide stability, and warrants, the most volatile sector of the equity market. Its attractions to investors lie in its basic security from the gilt content with a higher reward-risk holding from the warrant element added on top. The performance since inception in May 1974 has been adequate for this type of portfolio with a rise of 33 per cent.

Prospectus Page 12

TARGET FNCL.

Target Trust Managers is offering investors the Target Financial Fund this week-end, yielding an estimated 4 per cent. gross. The trust is invested in a wide spread of shares in the financial and property sectors of the market such as banks, insurance companies, investment trusts, discount houses and property companies. The minimum investment is £300 and both monthly savings schemes and a share exchange scheme are available.

● comment

The financial sector of the equity market has been subject to a number of crisis in the past two years, those in property companies and secondary baunking receiving a lot of publicity. Expert guidance is therefore necessary and the Target Financial Fund offers this to investors. The managers consider that this sector has many investment advantages in current conditions including large overseas earnings by the big companies in the sector. Investors should note that the yield is below average and that the fund is more attractive to investors looking for capital growth.

Prospectus Page 11

UNICORN 500

Barclays Unicorn is offering investors the Unicorn "500" Trust this week-end currently yielding an estimated 5.70 per cent. gross. The fund's aim is to provide an above-average income by investing in a wide spread of smaller companies with good prospects for capital growth. The minimum investment is £150 and arrangements can be made for automatic reinvestment of income. There is also a share exchange scheme.

● comment

The Unicorn "500" Trust offers investors the opportunity to take a stake in an equity portfolio of the smaller companies, which the managers consider have special investment attractions under present conditions. The aim is to provide an above-average income with security, but the wide spread of holdings which ensures the security also gives a yield not much above that of the FT-All Share index. However, the track record of this trust is good with both income and capital doubling since the launch ten years ago.

Prospectus Page 15

LAWSON HIGH

Lawson Securities is offering investors the Lawson High Yield Fund this week-end yielding an estimated 11.5 per cent. gross. The underlying portfolio is invested in Preference shares—40 per cent.—*high yielding* equities and investment trust income shares. The minimum investment is £100, accumulation units are available and there is both a share exchange and a savings plan.

● comment

The Lawson High Yield Fund has been the most successful in the Lawson stable and has remained among the leaders of the high income trusts. The fixed-interest Preference shareholding provides stability and a high level of initial income, while the equity portion provides high income with prospects of future increases. This blend of the portfolio possibly provides the best compromise for investors seeking both a high starting level with potential increases in that income.

Prospectus Page 21

CRESCENT INTNL.

The Crescent Unit Trust Managers are offering the Crescent International Fund this week-end. The underlying portfolio is invested worldwide, with emphasis being placed on the U.S. and Japanese markets. The minimum investment is £250 and dividends are automatically reinvested.

● comment

Investment managers are feeling more confident about the short and longer-term prospects of the U.S. market and investors seeking to diversify on a geographical basis may well find such overseas markets attractive. The Crescent International Fund goes beyond concentrating on one overseas market and seeks to switch and diversify between the main overseas areas. Although it has shown a volatile performance since its inception in 1970 it has considerably outperformed the U.K. equity market.

Prospectus Page 11

PIMS NIL YIELD

Schlesinger Trust Managers is advertising the Schlesinger "Nil Yield" Fund this week-end which aims to give investors capital appreciation only, with little or no income. The portfolio is invested in low coupon gilts (55 per cent.) and overseas growth stocks (35 per cent.) with the remainder in low yielding equities and capital shares of split-level investment trusts. The fund is designed for the larger investor (minimum £2,500) and is linked with the "PIMS" service which provides regular detailed reports and meetings.

● comment

Investors should always consider the net return on their investments at their own tax rate and not the quoted gross rate. High rate tax payers should be seeking capital growth rather than income and the Schlesinger "Nil Yield" Fund aims for the ultimate—all capital appreciation and no income. It is to such investors that this fund will hold attractions.

Prospectus Page 11

Town & Commercial sales progress

DESPITE DIFFICULT conditions in property markets at home and overseas, Town and Commercial Properties had some success in disposing of properties during the year to March 31, 1975. Sales of £20.6m. were effected of which £12.5m. represented U.K. properties, says the chairman, Mr. John Hines.

Notwithstanding the sales, rents receivable increased from £5.77m. to £6.44m. As reported on January 2 an increased trading loss of £5.2m. (£0.5m.) was incurred and there is no dividend (0.134p net).

So far as possible the directors are concentrating on selling low-yielding properties and specifically those which are likely to produce sufficient free funds after repayment of borrowings secured on them.

Because of market uncertainties it was decided not to revalue the group's properties as at March 31, 1975. A provision of £7m. has, however, been made against the book value of development properties in the U.K., which includes provision for a loss of approximately £3m. which was realised in May, 1975, on the disposal of the site at St. Dunstan's in the City of London. Following this provision development properties in the U.K. are included in the accounts at £22.3m.

Following this sale the group has only one remaining property in Central London, its U.K. portfolio being well spread and diversified.

Mr. Hines points out that while there was an unrealised profit of £0.9m. in respect of the sterling value of foreign currency borrowings, since March 31 this profit has turned into a loss now estimated at around £2m. Although foreign currency borrowings now amount to around £56m., the book value of the group's overseas properties represents approximately 90 per cent. of this sum.

Since end-March further property sales amounting to about £7m. have been completed and the sale of the site at St. Dunstan's has substantially reduced the unfunded development commitments which now only amount to about £3m. But the group still has a negative cash flow position and every effort continues to be made to achieve further sales and lettings. Encouraging negotiations are currently in hand for the disposal of the Brussels development which has been completed.

Despite many difficulties there is continuing progress in the disposal of the remainder of the Canadian land.

Consideration is being given to other ways of strengthening the group's overall position, the chairman adds.

An unaudited draft balance-sheet as at September 30, 1975, prepared on a similar basis to the audited accounts as at March 31, 1975, shows holders' funds of approximately £18m. compared with the £21.5m. shown in the audited accounts. The continuing losses and adverse changes in exchange rates affecting the group's borrowings were significant factors in the six months to September 30, 1975.

The auditors' report states the accounts have been prepared on the basis that the group will continue as a going concern and receive continuing support from the group's bankers and financial institutions.

As no independent professional valuation of the group's properties was carried out at March 31, 1975, they are unable to express an opinion on the ... group's investment ... satisfy themselves ... properties are stated ... of cost and net reali...

Meeting, Britan... Grosvenor Square, ... noon.

Wintru... midway decline

A FALL in pre-tax ... £587,271 to £381,882 ... Wintrust for the ... September 30, 1975, ... directors state that ... every confidence in ... development of the ...

The interim divid... from 0.9691 to 1.034... year's total was ... profits of £800,004.

After tax for the ... £182,554 against £29... balance comes thr... from £283,988 to £1...

Net asset value p... at September 30 was...

J. Stock... set for record

WHOLESALE provisi... importers and distrib... Stocks and Sons ... reports an advance i... £205,737 to £253,835 ... months to September ... the directors say that ... ditions are still good ... that results for the ... show an improveme... previous 12 months, ... profits totalled a rec...

The interim divide... 1p net. Last year's to...

Cash flow position ... declare the directors.

Turnover	
Depreciation	
Trading profit	
Investment income	
Realisation of assets	
Total profit	

Ritz passe... dividend

For the year to S... 1975, Ritz Hotel is ... dividend after suffe... losses of £109,710 a... of £28,869. At ... reported losses of ... pared with profits ...

In 1973-74, the ... net dividend of ... 12.98p in the previo...

For the latest ful... receipts contracted ... to £867,000.

Loss per share w... 26.7p compared with ... 3.9p last time.

Gross receipts	
Pre-tax loss	
Tax	
Net loss	

* Profit.

ABERFOYLE

Aberfoyle Plantatio... capital repayment of ... has received Court ...

Northborough accounts qualified

AMONG qualifications on the accounts of Northborough Investment Trust for the year ended April 30, 1975, auditors, Binder Hamlyn, state that in view of the statement of the directors that the aggregate value of the properties was "substantially less than the book value of £5,613,656" they are of the opinion that the accounts do not give a true and fair view of the state of affairs at April 30, 1975 or of the loss for the year — £400,054, against £87,368.

They also point out that the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis on the assumption, as stated in the *director's report, that the finance* that the group requires to meet its commitments will continue to be available.

However, the chairman, Mr. L. Lavy, says he hopes that "most of their problems are behind them and it will not be too long before he can report an improved situation."

Due to sales and disposals £2,792,550 borrowings have been repaid with the consequent saving in interest of approximately £360,000 per annum as against a loss in income of approximately £70,000.

Having disposed of its main assets in Holland, the value of the remaining assets of the Dutch company, after deducting the mortgages, are insignificant. In view of this the continuation of this subsidiary is immaterial and it is intended to write off the investment.

Further details of all the recent disposals will be issued shortly with a statement of net assets which, in view of the delay in the issue of the report and accounts, will show a more up-to-date position.

With the co-operation of the group's bankers it is intended to continue a policy of orderly realisations in order to repay further outstanding borrowings and to retain only income producing assets. In this way it is hoped to be able to return the group to profitability prior to embarking upon a policy of ex... fields more profitable ... fore, the chairman a...

HOMFRAY

Homfray and Co. ... its year end from J... tember, and the re... made up to the Satu... to the end of Septe... current period will ... months to October 2, ...

Two interim repo... issued covering six ... January 3, 1976, and ... to April 3, 1976. The ... will be issued in Mar...

The change is due ... difficulty in prepar... interim accounts for ... lian companies at Dec...

GADEK SCH...

The directors of Ga... Estate, Gadek Malaysi... Indonesia announce ... scheme being unde... Gadek Rubber has n... the final consents ... Malaysian Authoritie... become effective on M...

Application has be... the Stock Exchange ... sent listing of Gadek ... be cancelled at th... business on Monday a... ings to commence in t... Gadek Malaysia the fo...

ISSUE NEWS

ELECTRA TR... DISAPPOINT...

Electra Investment ... for sale of 12.5m. O... stock units at 87p ea... applications for onl... units. Accordingly ... writers, Cazenove an... been called upon t... 3,668,000 units, appro... per cent. of the offer.

It is expected that ... acceptance will be pos... for dealings in the u... next Wednesday.

MONTAGUE M...

The resolution to i... authorised capital of ... Meyer was passed at ... Provisional allotment ... been posted and de... expected to start n... Monday. The last day f... (nil paid) is March 1... last day for acceptanc... ment is March 12.

MITCHELL SO...

Due to an agency ... transmission Mitchell S... rights issue on the ba... for-four at 19p ys ... stated as being on th... one-for-ten.

هكذا اصل الأصل

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S COMPANY NEWS

Take-over bids and mergers

European Ferries has decided to press ahead with a counter-bid to the State-owned British Transport Docks Board's 150p cash offer for Felixstowe Dock and Railway after having received a "satisfactory response" from the Felixstowe employees, the TGWU branch having decided to take a neutral position on both offers. The Felixstowe Board stated a week ago, after the initial approach from EF, that it considered a BTDB take-over would best serve the interests of all concerned," and a Private Bill to complete the deal is in the course of going through Parliament. However, EF hopes that its offer which is now on the table will help to arouse sufficient opposition to prevent the Bill gaining the Royal Assent. EF is offering five of its shares for every two of Felixstowe plus a conditional cash bonus, payable only if the Bill is defeated, of 15p per Felixstowe share. The complete package currently values each Felixstowe share at 191p and the whole equity at £6.7m. However, reflecting the odds against the EF attempt succeeding, Felixstowe shares closed the week at 156p, a sizeable discount to the EF terms.

International trading group Inchcape has emerged as a rival bidder for Emu Wine with terms recommended by the latter's Board. These comprise a cash consideration of 170p for each Emu share, capitalising the whole equity at £2.55m., and a share-exchange alternative, currently worth slightly less than the cash amount, of 17 Inchcape for every 40 Emu. However, Western Australian Worsted and Woollen Mills's subsidiary Bell Bros. Holdings, which owns 32½ per cent. of the Emu equity and started the bidding last month with a cash offer of 142p for each Emu, has since countered by raising its terms to match the 170p cash offered by Inchcape.

C. Walker, the private unquoted steel stockholders, has increased its cash offer from 85p to 125p for each share of Coated Metals following the purchase by Rosedale (J. W.) Investments, a Walker associate, of a further 50,000 CM Ordinary at 125p per share. The CM Board, which rejected the original bid as "totally inadequate," advises shareholders to take no action while it considers the new terms.

Following the approach made last October, Howard and Wyndham yesterday produced an agreed shares and Loan stock offer for the two-thirds of the equity of Ciro Holdings not under its control. Ciro is thus valued at roughly 16p per share.

Premier Consolidated Oilfields and Ball and Collins (Oil and Gas), two companies with interests in the North Sea, are holding preliminary discussions which could result in a merger. Hampton Trust is making a share-exchange offer for Assam Consolidated worth 16p per AC share.

Company bid for	Value of bid per share k	Market price k	Price before bid	Value of bid (£m's) k	Bidder	Final Acc'tce date
Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated.						
Alliance Alders	47*d	48½	41	8.1*d	Jeffrsn. Smrfit.	—
Ashbourne Invs.	20b	41¾	41¾	—	Cnt. & Shrwd.	—
Assam Cons.	31½	18¾	18¾	0.4	Hampton Tst.	—
Bank Bridge	3½	3½	5½	0.6	Tranwood	—
British Benzol	28	23	26	2.4	Tranwood	—
Brown Bros.	23*c	16	16	3.0*c	Dana Corpn.	23/2
Cessnock	260	250	240	1.0	McLeod Russel	—
Chaddesley Invs.	6½*d	9½	6	0.1*d	Cie. Aux. Pour L'Industrie	—
Ciro Holdings	16dg	14g	14	0.7dg	Howard & Wyndham	—
Clover Dairies	166	156	92	10.0	Nthrn. Foods	—
Coated Metals	125*	130	75	1.4*	Walker (C.)	—
Consolidated Tea	351	340	360	4.2	McLeod Russel	—
Emu Wine	170*d	180	127	1.7*d	Bell Bros. Holdings	—
Emu Wine	170b	180	160	2.5b	Inchcape	—
Felixstowe Dock	191g	156g	132	6.7g	Eurpn. Ferries	—
Felixstowe Dock	150*	156g	90	5.2*	Brit. Transport Docks Bd.	—
Frost & Reed	150½d	145	136	1.3d	HTV	—
Highgate Optical	39*d	37½	35	0.3*d	Bayfine	—
New Ireland Ass.	110*d	105	98	3.8*d	PMPA Insur.	—
S.A. Distilleries	390d	350	380	6.3d	Oude Meester	—
Teith Hldgs.	422	415	330	4.0	James Finlay	—
Thompson-Reid	30	28½	15	0.9	Charles Hurst	—
Tilley Lamp	50*d	48	38	0.2*d	Mr. R L Hersov	—
Totalisators & Greyhound	15*	15½	14	1.1*	Ladbroke	—
Trianco	7*d	7	6½	0.4*d	Cnt. & Shrwd.	—
Warwick Eng.	26	24½	21	1.6	Gidney Ind. Invests.	—
West Nile	422	415	330	2.8	James Finlay	—
Weston Pharm.	84	79½	47	11.9	Dixons Photo.	—

* All cash offer. b Cash alternative. c Partial bid. d For capital not already held. e Combined market capitalisation. f Date on which scheme is expected to become operative. h Based on February 20, 1976. k Based on February 19, 1976. ‡ At suspension. † Bid.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Company	Year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)		Earnings* per share (p)		Dividends* per share (p)	
Adams & Gibbon	Nov. 30	643	(357)	16.4	(8.9)	3.6	(3.3)
Albright & Wilson	Dec. 31	18,540	(22,789)	9.3	(12.4)	3.734	(3.518)
Allied Insulators	Dec. 31	969	(691)	4.6	(3.3)	1.85	(1.1)
W. W. Ball	Sept. 30	470	(480)	6.2	(5.5)	1.496	(1.402)
Bath & Portland	Oct. 31	2,080	(2,010)	6.8	(8.5)	2.635	(2.47)
Berisford	Nov. 24	544	(672)	6.3	(7.2)	1.99	(1.99)
Charles Baynes	Dec. 31	169	(152)	11.2	(10.3)	2.728	(2.556)
British Enkalon	Dec. 31	5,062L	(114)	—	(3.0)	0.25	(0.25)
Carrington Viyella	Dec. 31	5,561	(9,016)	1.6	(3.2)	1.713	(1.728)
City Offices	Dec. 31	840	(757)	1.9	(1.6)	1.4	(1.32)
Fife Forge	Dec. 31	217	(152)	21.9	(11.5)	4.63	(4.26)
ICI	Dec. 31	327,000	(455,000)	39.7	(51.2)	11.824	(11.08)
IMI	Dec. 31	16,387	(18,904)	4.8	(4.8)	2.681	(2.513)
Herbert Morris	Nov. 2	1,155	(316)	14.0	(3.8)	6.0	(Nil)
MK Refrigeration	Nov. 1	1,359	(1,398)	9.3	(10.1)	2.509	(2.315)
Newbold & Burton	Dec. 31	185	(145)	3.4	(2.3)	2.275	(2.345)
New Equipment	Oct. 31	101	(152)	2.4	(3.2)	0.878	(0.905)
Olives Paper Mill	Dec. 31	26	(371)	0.6	(10.7)	0.84	(2.445)
Thermal Syndicate	Oct. 31	951	(901)	8.2	(8.5)	2.513	(2.355)
Trust Hses. Forte	Oct. 31	15,608	(11,257)	8.6	(6.5)	7.35	(7.35)
Wm. Whittingham	Oct. 31	915L	(105)L	—	(—)	Nil	(Nil)

INTERIM STATEMENTS

Company	Half-year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)		Interim dividends* per share (p)	
Bogod-Pelepah	Sept. 30	140	(100)	0.25	(0.233)
Peter Brotherhood	Sept. 30	379	(4)	—	(—)
Cattle's (Hldgs.)	Dec. 31	756‡	(684)	—	(—)
Customagic Mnfg.	Dec. 31	134	(125)	0.43	(0.35)
Daejan Holdings	Sept. 30	530	(630)	1.138	(1.173)
Dorrington Inv.	Dec. 31	227	(157)	Nil	(Nil)
Eleco Holdings	Dec. 31	480	(460)	0.65	(0.603)
Garford-Lilley	Sept. 30	116	(114)	0.175	(0.175)
Guildhall Property	Dec. 31	240	(197)	0.503	(0.503)
John Haggas	Dec. 31	1,202	(912)	1.0	(0.84)
Helton Holdings	Oct. 31	149L	(170)	Nil	(Nil)
Jentique	Dec. 31	312	(330)	0.225	(0.211)
Lonrho	Dec. 31	19,000†	(14,100)	—	(—)
Meat Trade Spplrs.	Sept. 30	202	(214)	3.3	(Nil)
MFI Warehouses	Nov. 29	456	(246)L	1.17	(Nil)
John M. Newton	Sept. 30	254	(230)	0.42	(0.42)
Orme Developmts.	Oct. 31	806	(883)	1.1	(1.005)
Press Tools	Oct. 31	54	(55)	0.575	(0.575)
Ramar Textiles	Oct. 31	74	(113)	Nil	(Nil)
Richards of Shf'ld.	Sept. 30	186	(258)	0.3	(0.3)
Turner Curzon	Dec. 31	255	(—)	0.204	(—)
U.K. Property	Dec. 31	416L	(104)L	Nil	(Nil)
Joseph Webb	Sept. 30	190	(125)	0.263	(0.263)
Wedgwood	Jan. 3	5,206§	(3,674)¶	3.25	(3.0)
S. W. Wood	Sept. 30	216	(733)	1.508	(1.508)

(Figures in parentheses are for corresponding period.) Dividends shown net except where otherwise stated. * Adjusted for any intervening scrip issue. † For three months. ‡ For nine months. § For 40 weeks. ¶ For 39 weeks. L Loss.

Offers for sale, placings and introductions

Norton Simon: Quotation 49m. Common $1 shares.

Rights Issues

Braham Millar Group: Two-for-five at 28p each.
Edgar Allen Balfour: One-for-three at 80p each.
HAT Group: One-for-five at 31p each.
Imperial Metal Industries: Two-for-seven at 44p each.
Mitchell Somers: One-for-four at 19p each.
Tecalemit: Two-for-five at 42p each.
Turner and Newall: One-for-four at 130p each.

Scrip Issue

Fife Forge: One-for-two.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Amount Paid Up	Latest Renunc. Date	1975/6 High	1975/6 Low	Stock	Closing Price p	+ or −	Div. Amount	Times covered	Gross Yield	P/E Ratio
F.P.	—	540	415	Ang.Am.Coal Corp.50c	415	−5	MQ58c	2.8	4.0	—
F.P.	—	$12¾	$12	Brazil Fund d.A.	$12	......	—	—	—	—
F.P.	—	$10,500	$10,500	Brasilvest S.A.	$10,500	......	—	—	—	—
F.P.	—	£43	£29¾	Hughes Tool $1	£35¼	+2½	Q40c	—	0.6	—
F.P.	—	205	167	LASMO 'OPS' Units 10p	170	......	—	—	—	—
F.P.	—	205	170	SCOT 'OPS' Units 10p	170	......	—	—	—	—

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

Amount Paid up	Latest Renunc. Date	1975/6 High	1975/6 Low	Stock	Closing Price	+ or −
F.P.	—	100	99½	Agricultural Mort. 10¼% Dbs. 1977	100	......
F.P.	7/4	104	96	Arbuthnot Lath. 8% Conv. Uns. 1986	104	......
F.P.	19/3	144	126	Bowring (C.T.) 10% Conv. Uns. Loan 1997	129	−1
—	—	99½	99	British Gas Corporation Ltd. Notes 1981	99½	......
F.P.	23/1	104½	99½	Essex Water 9% Red. Pref. 1981	101½	+1
[illegible]	26/3	121½	85½	Jardine Math. 7½% Conv. Uns. 1990	107½	−½
£30	—	32½	30	LASMO 14% Uns. Loan 81-85	30	......
F.P.	—	99½	99½	Midland Bk. FloatCap. Notes 1985	99½	......
F.P.	—	101	99¾	Norway 8½% $ Notes 1981	101	......
—	16/2	109	92	Penton 15% Conv. Uns. 1985	109	......
F.P.	—	99½	99½	Royal Tst. Mort. Corp. 9½ Deb. 1981	99½	......
£30	—	32½	30	SCOT 14% Uns. Loan 81-85	30	......
F.P.	—	99½	99½	Seagram 9% Notes 1983	99½	......
F.P.	17/11	50½p	45p	Singlo 10% Cum. Conv. Pref.	47½	......
F.P.	20/2	129	110	Tenneco 10% Sterling $ Conv. 91-96	127	+1½

"RIGHTS" OFFERS

Amount Paid up	Latest Renunc. Date		1975/6 High	1975/6 Low	Stock	Closing Price p	+ or −
F.P.	2/2	1/3	29	25½	Amber Day	27	−1½
F.P.	4.2	26.3	76	66½	Armitage Shanks	66½	−½
F.P.	13/2	12/3	65	60½	Baker Perkins	62	−1
F.P.	11/12	5/3	146	94	Berisford (S & W)	145	−3
Nil	2/3	7/5	20	16½	Blackwood Hodge	17pm	+½
Nil	5/3	5/5	93	84	Bremnall Beard	84	−2
F.P.	17/2	24/3	28	25¾	Brown Boveri Kent	27	......
Nil	27/2	26/3	28	16	Carpet Intnl	18½pm	+½
Nil	4/3	9/4	7¾	7¼	Jackson (J. & H. B.)	7¼pm	......
Nil	—	—	9	5	LCP Holdings	5pm	−2½
F.P.	26/1	12/3	70	60½	Lake & Elliot	65	......
F.P.	13/2	18/3	23	18	Liner Concrete Machinery	19	−½
Nil	3/3	20/7	10½	7	Lloyd (F.H.)	7pm	−1
F.P.	5/1	10/2	409	270	Nat. Bank of Aust.	260	−5
F.P.	23/2	19/3	145	126	Ocean Transport	128	−1
Nil	24/2	25/3	27	18½	Stenhouse Hldgs.	21pm	+½
Nil	25/2	24/3	13	9	Strong & Fisher	9pm	−1
F.P.	6/2	2/4	14	12¼	Tomkins (F.H.)	13½	......
Nil	27/2	9/4	35	22	Wolseley-Hughes	24pm	−1

Renunciation date usually last day for dealing free of stamp duty. a Placing to public. b Figures based on prospectus estimate. d Dividend rate paid or payable on part capital, cover based on dividend on full capital. g Pence unless otherwise indicated. u Forecast dividend: cover based on previous year's earnings. M Figures based on prospectus or other official estimate for 1976. Shares assumed. † Cover allows for conversion of shares not now ranking for dividends or ranking only for restricted dividends. ** Issued by tender. Offered to holders of Ordinary shares as a "rights." ♥ 398 S.Afr. cents. ♣ Rights by way of capitalisation. †† Tender allotment price. ◆ Reintroduced. ‡‡ Issued in connection with reorganisation, merger or take-over. ♠ Introduction. ♠ Issued to former Preference holders. 1 Allotment letters (or fully-paid). † Provisional or partly-paid allotment letters. § With warrants.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

English-Scottish lifts revenue—scrip issues

NET REVENUE of English and Scottish Investors increased from £406,422 to £433,978 in the year ended January 31, 1976, after all charges including tax of £287,892 against £337,113. Stated earnings per share have risen from 4.44p to 4.86p.

One-for-one scrip issues to Ordinary and B holders are also proposed.

Gross revenue improved from £1.03m. to £1.07m. Net asset value per Ordinary and B share was 162p (121p).

Ordinary holders receive a same again second interim dividend in lieu of final, of 2.25p net making 3.25p as before. A special dividend of 0.5p is also being paid. B shareholders receive as before, an interim in lieu of final, of 0.175p.

With the B dividend, there is also a scrip issue of 35,723 "B" shares in the ratio of 2.21114 new "B" shares for every 100 "B" shares held. In accordance with the amended articles of association a 1 per cent. capitalisation of 16,156 "B" shares will be added to this allotment.

The Board proposes to increase capital from £3.6m. to £6m. and to make the scrip issues of 9,543,805 Ordinary and 486,572 "B" shares after taking into account the allotment of 51,879 "B" shares.

Holders of the Preferred stock will receive a dividend of 4.2p (4.69p).

Net assets per share, including full dollar premium and prior charges at nominal value, were 148p against 99p and on full conversion of loan stock 146p (101p).

During the year five-year foreign currency loan facilities totalling $750,000 were negotiated with a U.S. bank.

	1975-76 £	1974-75 £
Gross revenue	391,298	373,151
Pre-tax revenue	281,605	282,146
Tax	102,027	103,648
Net revenue	179,578	178,498
Dividends	177,139	161,630
To reserve	2,439	16,838
Invs. at valuation (incl. full dollar premium)	10,614,273	7,851,622
Net current assets	215,746	309,825

Tyneside dividend up

A second net interim dividend of 2.05p against 1.8p and pre-tax profit little changed at £281,605 compared with £282,146 for the year to January 31, 1976, are announced by Tyneside Investment Trust.

The second interim, in lieu of a final, makes 2.75p for the year against 2.5p from stated earnings per 25p share of 2.789p against 2.772p.

Gross income expanded from £373,151 to £391,298. Tax was £102,027 (£103,648).

Net asset value per share advanced from 101p to 146p.

Carliol Trust pays more

Carliol Investment Trust is lifting its dividend from 2.5p to 2.75p net per 25p share for the year to January 31, 1976, with a second interim of 2.05p. Stated earnings per share were 2.933p (2.937p).

Gross income amounted to £684,760 (£636,558), and profit was £475,109 (£480,147), before tax of £174,661 (179,283).

	1975-76 £	1974-75 £
Gross revenue	684,760	636,558
Net rev. before tax	475,109	480,147
Taxation	174,661	179,283
Net revenue	300,448	300,864
Dividends	282,137	257,054
Revenue reserve	18,312	43,600
Valuation invests.*	16,176,569	11,750,364
Net current assets	474,168	1,133,050

* Including full dollar premium.

Net asset value per share, including full dollar premium and prior charges at nominal value, was 154p (102p) and 151p (103p) assuming full conversion of loan stock.

During the year, 5-year foreign currency loan facilities totalling $1½m. were negotiated with a U.S. bank.

Tor Investment up at halfway

Net revenue of Tor Investment Trust increased from £97,498 to £103,317 in the six months ended January 31, 1976. For the year ended July 31, 1975, net revenue totalled £202,047.

The interim dividend on the 25p Income shares is 1.7875p net compared to 1.675p, to reduce disparity—the previous total of 4.1125p included a 0.325 bonus.

Net asset value per Income share is 54p and 204p per Capital share.

Income falls at Leopold

Income before tax of Leopold Joseph Investment Trust contracted from £195,604 to £133,395 for the six months to December 31, 1975, after loan interest and expenses of £13,605 compared with £10,839.

Tax takes £51,089 against £96,088, leaving £82,306 compared with £99,516.

As already announced, the net interim dividend is again at 0.35p. In 1974-75, total dividend was 1.15p net from after-tax revenue of £172,793.

GENERAL & COMMERCIAL

A U.S.$250,000 multi-currency loan facility has been arranged by General and Commercial Inv. to finance portfolio investment abroad.

STANDARD TRUST

With two-fifths of its equity holdings invested abroad, Standard Trust will be able to participate in the world-wide recovery expected in the months ahead, the chairman, Lord Remnant says in his annual report.

Holdings of British company shares predominate, however, and shareholders' fortunes depend on no relaxation of the "more realistic policies" recently being followed by Government, the chairman says.

As reported on January 29 with net asset values, revenue after tax for 1975 was steady at £1.14m. (£1.15m.). The dividend is 4.2p against 3.99625p and the directors now say they hope to at least maintain the dividend in the current year.

At December 31, the 20 largest investments had a market value of £9.95m. or 26.46 per cent. of the portfolio. Meeting, Winchester House, E.C., March 24 at 11 a.m.

Statement Page 18

BIDS AND DEALS

Aurora puts in full offer for East Sussex

Aurora Holdings has purchased a further 1,883,316 Ordinary shares in East Sussex Engineering Group to bring its total holding to some 43.3 per cent. of the Ordinary capital; and in accordance with the City Code intends to make a cash offer for the balance. This will be 30.03125p per share, representing the highest price paid by Aurora for Ordinary shares in East Sussex.

On full acceptance the aggregate consideration payable by Aurora for the whole of the capital (including shares already purchased) would be £3.31m. The offer will be conditional upon acceptances being sufficient to give Aurora more than 50 per cent. of the capital.

The Board of East Sussex is consulting financial advisers S. G. Warburg and will be formally advising shareholders as soon as possible. Meantime, shareholders are strongly advised to take no action.

Keyser Ullmann is acting for Aurora.

WALMSLEY GROUP

Beloit Corporation of the U.S. has now increased its ownership of the Walmsley (Bury) Group from 51 per cent. to 100 per cent.

This was accomplished by purchase of all the outstanding share capital under the scheme approved by shareholders and ratified by the High Court.

NO PROBE

Mrs. Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has decided not to refer the proposed merger of Alexander Howden Group and Moriee Tozer and Beck (Holdings) to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

TERMS FOR CIRO

An agreed bid worth some £740,000 is no wto be made by Howard and Wyndham, the theatre and publishing group, for the 67.14 per cent. it does not already hold in Ciro Holdings, the jewellery group, and the Preference shares it does not own. Terms value the Ordinary shares at 15p.

This follows the announcement last October that Ciro had been approached by Bankers Trust International on behalf of H. & W. with a view to agreement on terms for an offer for the remaining shares.

H. & W. is to bid 34 of its Ordinary shares, last night unchanged at 21½p, and £8.45 of 18 per cent. unsecured loan stock, 1976-91, for every 100 of the Ciro shares, which closed unaltered at 14p. For every 100 Preference shares, holders will get £87 of the loan stock.

Ciro's directors are to accept in respect of their holdings of 3.63 per cent. of the Ordinary shares.

SHARE STAKES

Yelverton Investments hold 469,602 Ordinary shares in Finance and Industrial Trust, representing 18.23 per cent. of the equity.

Jalel has purchased 52,450 Ordinary and 7,750 Preference shares in Badulipar Tea (21.89 per cent.).

Slater Walker and its subsidiaries, investment trusts, etc., no longer have an interest in 10 per cent. or more in the capital of Forminster. This is not a disclosure under the Companies Act.

Dr. Colin Barry Phipps and associates have purchased an additional 27,500 Ordinary shares of Lyon and Lyon bringing total holding to 538,000 (17.44 per cent.).

COATED METALS

Shareholders of Coated Metals (Holdings) are promised a letter from their Board about the increased cash offer of 125p a share, in place of the original—and rejected—85p from C. Walker and Sons, the unquoted steel stockholding concern.

This is to be despatched as soon as possible after the directors have received revised offer documents and studied them with financial advisers, Morgan Grenfell.

PLASTICISERS

At October 31, 1975, net assets of Plasticisers, which is being acquired by Readicut International, amounted to £1.01m., after deferred tax of £401,000.

Because of an acute shortage of finance during the last accounting year, turnover fell by £1.43m. to £4.05m., resulting in a net loss of £0.54m. compared with a net profit of £0.3m. in the previous year. Available tax losses to carry forward are some £1.12m.

S & W Berisford Limited

RECORD SALES, PROFITS AND EARNINGS

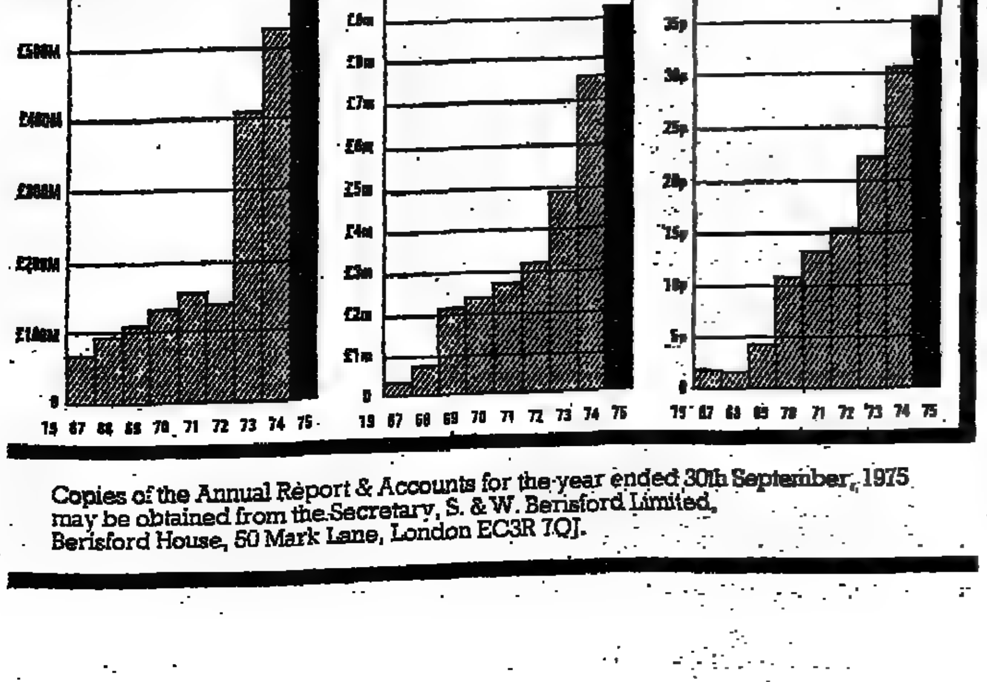
■ Once again, new record levels of turnover, profits and earnings per share have been achieved.

■ Sales—up 12.4% to a new level of £598,740,000.

■ Profits—up 22.9% to record £9,329,000 representing a twenty-seven fold increase over the last ten years.

■ Earnings per Ordinary Share—up 17.2% to 35.38p.

■ Dividend—up by maximum allowed to 5.912p per share.



Copies of the Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 30th September, 1975 may be obtained from the Secretary, S. & W. Berisford Limited, Berisford House, 50 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7QJ.

BARCLAYS UNICORN

Five good reasons why you should invest in Unicorn '500' Trust now.

1 A good income
Unicorn '500' is something special in unit trusts. It aims to provide an above average income by investing in a wide spread of smaller companies with prospects for capital growth.

The yield on Unicorn '500' Trust is currently estimated at 5.70% before tax as at 19th February. This is above average these days for an investment with growth prospects.

2 Growth potential
Today smaller companies have a special added attraction. They have yet to experience fully the considerable rise in share values which larger companies have shown in the last 12 months. Previous experience in rising markets has indicated that smaller companies follow the leaders after an interval.

In other words these should be investments with prospects of growth ahead. We believe therefore, that this is a good time to invest in Unicorn '500' Trust.

3 Merger potential
A proportion of the companies in the Unicorn '500' portfolio are the sort that are likely to benefit from mergers. There is some indication that these situations are currently increasing in number.

4 Impressive performance
Anyone who invested £100 at the start of this Trust (6th February 1966) has seen the income double from £5.74 in the first full year to £11.55 in 1975. With net income reinvested, this holding would now have a realisable value of £245—substantially more than double his money.

In capital growth alone the share price has risen 89% compared with the Financial Times All-Share Index, which rose 53% over the same period.

5 Wider spread for extra protection
Unicorn '500' Trust spreads your savings over a large number of companies which gives extra protection.

You should regard your investment as a long-term one.

You should remember that the price of shares and the income from them can go down as well as up.

For your guidance, the offer price, which may change daily, was 56.8p per share on 19th February.

How to invest

You can invest in Unicorn '500' Trust with a lump sum of £150 or more. Please fill in the application form and send it in with your cheque.

Your shares taken in exchange

Another way of investing in Unicorn '500' Trust is by exchanging shares you already possess for a holding in the Trust. In this way you obtain an investment supervised by professional managers; you could save money, too.

For details fill in your name and address and tick the appropriate box in the application form.

Barclays Bank Branches

Remember, you can get full information about Barclays Unicorn at your nearest branch of Barclays Bank. They will be pleased to help you and to handle the details of purchase for you—and you do not have to have an account there.

Alternatively if you require further guidance, your stockbroker, solicitor or accountant will give you impartial advice about this or any other Barclays Unicorn investment.

Income is distributed half-yearly on 15th April and 15th October net of basic rate tax. With your notification you will receive a tax voucher which will enable you to claim a refund from the Inland Revenue if your circumstances permit.

Charges The buying (offer) price of your unit trust shares includes an initial management charge of 5%. After that a half-yearly charge of 3/16ths of 1% (plus VAT) will be made on the value of the Trust Fund.

Commission at the rate of 1¼% will be paid by the Managers to all authorised agents forwarding applications to invest.

Prices and Yields are published daily in the Financial Times and other national newspapers.

You can sell back your unit trust shares to the Managers at the bid price ruling when your instructions arrive. Payment will be made normally within 7 days of receipt of the renounced certificate.

Managers Barclays Unicorn Limited, Unicorn House, 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB. Tel: 01-534 5544. (Member of the Association of Unit Trust Managers.)

Trustee Royal Exchange Assurance.

Application Form

BLOCK CAPITALS

To: Barclays Unicorn Limited, Unicorn House, 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB. or 35 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3DS.

Surname (Mr., Mrs. or Miss)

Forenames (in full)

Address

I/We wish to invest (Minimum £150) £ in shares of Unicorn '500' Trust and enclose my/our cheque for this amount.

If you wish to purchase the shares through your Barclaycard Account please fill in your Barclaycard number below:

I/We understand that shares will be bought for me/us at the offer price ruling on the day of receipt of this application, and that I/we will be sent a contract note showing the number purchased.

Please tick here if you want your income automatically reinvested. ☐

I/We declare that I am/we are over 18 and am/are not resident outside the Scheduled Territories nor acquiring the shares as the nominee(s) of any person(s) resident outside those Territories. If you are unable to make this declaration, it should be deleted and the form lodged through your bank, stockbroker or any other authorised depositary in the U.K. This offer is not applicable to residents of the Republic of Ireland. In the case of joint applications all must sign.

Signed Date

Please send me full details of your Share Exchange Plan ☐

FT 2102 LSUD | Agents Vat Reg. No.

Registered office: 54 Lombard Street London EC3P 3AH. Registered in England No. 589407. This advertisement is published by Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited, Exempted Dealer, on behalf of Barclays Unicorn Limited.

A financial service of the Barclays Bank Group

BARCLAYS UNICORN

WALL STREET + OVERSEAS MARKETS + FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Rise continues: up 10 at 1 pm

BY OUR WALL STREET CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.

THE ADVANCE CONTINUED in record trading on Wall Street to-day, responding to optimism about the outlook for the U.S. economy and Corporate profits.

By 1 p.m. the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up another 10.54 to 986.30, making a rise of 27.94 in the four-day week—the market was closed on Monday for Washington's birthday—while the NYSE All Common Index gained another 40 cents to $54.66, for a rise of $1.39 over the week.

Closing prices and market reports were not available for this edition.

Trading volume further expanded 2.96m. shares to 27.25m., compared with 1 p.m. yesterday.

Traders were encouraged by the Government report on the January Consumer Price Index, which showed a rise of 0.4 per cent. compared with a 0.5 per cent. gain a month earlier. Lower prices for Foods, Gasoline, Fuel Oil and new Cars held down the Cost of Living last month.

Also, the Labour Department said real spendable earnings in the U.S. picked up 0.2 per cent. last month.

Brokers report that Institutions have come back into the Stock Market after a period of profit-taking and are reinvesting in other issues.

Ford Motor picked up $⅞ to $52⅜ on higher fourth quarter profits.

Zenith Radio added $⅞ at $37 on the development of a new colour television tube with Corning Glass, which rose $⅞ to $59½.

Bendix climbed $3¾ to $61½.

Sperry and Hutchinson were up $2¼ to $13¾, IBM $1½ to $263⅝, Du Pont $1¼ to $154¼, Honeywell $1⅞ to $55⅝, and Rohm and Haas $1½ to $72¼.

Symplicity Pattern put on $⅞ to $21⅜, Pan American Airways $¼ to $7⅞ and Magic Investment $¼ to $16⅞.

The American S.E. Market Value Index rose 1.04 to 103.99, making a gain of 4.45 on the week, while the turnover expanded 760,000 shares at 5.65m.

OTHER MARKETS

Canada strengthens

Canadian Stock Markets followed New York, adding gains over a wide front in active mid-day trading yesterday.

The Industrial Share Index moved up 2.15 to 197.43, Golds 1.28 to 285.10, Western Oils 1.78 to 226.32 and Base Metals 0.76 to 87.33.

Distillers and Brewers also were active and higher.

PARIS—Higher at start of new Account, with Electricals, Foods and Stores in the lead. Americans gained ground, Germans, Dutch and Canadians mixed, Golds slightly lower.

BRUSSELS—Mixed in quiet trading.

U.S. and West Germans higher, U.K. firm, French little changed. Gold Mines showed minor changes.

AMSTERDAM—Generally higher in fair trading.

State Loans edged lower.

SWITZERLAND—Markets rose slightly, encouraged by the rally on Wall Street.

Landis and Gyr rose Frs.25 to 605 on a rise in orders in first four months of the current year.

State Bonds firmed after a Frs.500m. Federal Loan was called off.

GERMANY—Higher after busy session. Steels heavily sought, Chemicals well maintained, but Banks eased. Other sectors irregular.

Bonds moved up 0.25 points, with Authorities selling DM17m. nominal of stock. Mark Foreign Loans mixed.

OSLO—Insurances were steady, Industrials and Shippings irregular.

VIENNA—Very steady.

COPENHAGEN — Generally lower in very active dealings.

MILAN—Widespread gains in fairly active trading, following new Government's programme.

Bonds quiet and narrowly mixed.

JOHANNESBURG—Gold shares generally steady, although some prices were easier. Mining Financials quietly steady.

Coppers firmer, with Messina up 25 cents to R35.0. Other Metals little changed.

HONG KONG—Prices advanced in increased trading.

TOKYO—Firm in active dealings. Volume 300m. (140m.)

AUSTRALIA—Mainly firmer in quiet trading.

Poseidon put on 7 cents to $A1.52, Utah jumped 20 cents to $A9.30 and Mount Lyell 5 cents to 90 cents.

Indices

NEW YORK

DOW JONES AVERAGES

Close	Home Bonds	Transport	Indus.	Util.	Trading volume 000's
Feb.					
19 ...	71.66	205.64	975.76	89.34	39,210
18 ...	71.60	203.84	960.09	88.48	29,900
17 ...	71.45	202.61	950.57	87.52	25,460
13 ...	71.36	200.96	968.36	88.03	23,870
12 ...	71.32	201.31	966.78	89.15	28,610
11 ...	71.28	202.73	971.90	89.31	32,300
10 ...	71.21	200.41	968.75	88.60	21,650
9 ...	71.22	199.94	957.18	89.47	26,340
6 ...	71.16	198.56	954.90	89.82	27,360
5 ...	71.25	199.82	964.21	91.13	33,780
4 ...	71.16	201.94	976.62	91.90	38,270
3 ...	71.16	199.43	972.61	91.29	34,080
2 ...	71.21	199.05	971.35	91.00	24,000
Jan.					
30 ...	71.26	199.36	975.28	90.87	38,510
29 ...	71.30	198.06	968.75	91.07	29,300
28 ...	71.13	195.24	951.56	90.56	27,370
27 ...	70.92	197.26	957.81	90.75	32,070
26 ...	70.94	197.26	961.61	90.66	34,470
1975-76 High	71.66 (19/2/76)	205.84 (19/2/76)	976.62 (4/2/76)	91.90 (4/2/76)	—
Low	66.16 (5/1)	146.47 (2/1)	632.04 (2/1)	72.02 (2/1)	—
All-time High	—	279.88 (7/2/69)	1051.70 (11/1/73)	163.32 (20/4/65)	38,210 (19/2/76)
Low	—	13.23 (8/7/32)	41.22 (8/7/32)	10.58 (28/4/42)	—

† Excluding bonds.

IND. DIVIDEND YIELD p.c.

Feb. 13	Feb. 6	Feb. 14, 1975
3.90	3.91	5.25

N.Y. SE ALL COMMON INDEX

December 31, 1965=50.

1975-76 High	1975-76 Low	Feb. 19	Feb. 18	Feb. 17	Feb. 13	Feb. 12
54.26 (19/2/76)	37.66 (2/1/75)	54.26	53.59	52.98	53.27	53.55

RISES AND FALLS

Issues traded	Up	Down	Unchanged
1,921	1,336	373	250

	Feb. 19	Feb. 18	Feb. 17	Feb. 13	Feb. 12
New Highs	385	184	187	116	254
.. Lows	one	nil	two	three	two

AMERICAN SE MARKET VALUE INDEX

Starting base 100 Aug. 31, 1973.

1975-76 High	1975-76 Low	Feb. 19	Feb. 18	Feb. 17	Feb. 13	Feb. 12
102.95 (19/2/76)	62.20 (2/1/75)	102.95	101.14	100.13	99.54	99.24
Volume (000's)		7,560	5,150	4,460	5,420	5,670

STANDARD AND POORS U.S. STOCK INDICES

	*Industrials	†Composite
Feb. 19	113.86	101.41
" 18	112.02	98.35
" 17	111.12	99.03
" 13	111.84	99.67
" 12	112.52	100.25
" 11	113.16	100.77
" 10	112.75	100.47
" 9	111.73	99.62
1975-76 High	114.31 (4/2/76)	101.91 (4/2/76)
1975-76 Low	77.71 (8/1/75)	70.74 (8/1/75)

* 425 Industrials. † 425 Industrials, 50 Utilities, 25 Rails.

STOCK AND BOND YIELDS

	Feb. 19 1976	Feb. 12 1976	Feb. 19 1975
Ind. Ord. yield pc ...	3.38	3.35	4.28
Ind. Ord. p/e ratio...	13.73	13.56	8.82
Long-term Govt. Bds. per cent.	5.79	5.79	6.04

THURSDAY'S ACTIVE STOCKS

	Stocks traded	Closing price	Change on day
Pan Amer. Air.	620,600	7½	−⅛
Ramada Inns	467,100	8⅞	−⅛
Levit y Furniture	413,700	7⅞	+⅛
Amer. Tel. Tel.	301,400	57⅞	+1
Whittaker	295,200	5	+⅞
Massey Ferguson	291,300	39⅞	+1¼
Ingic Investment	276,300	16⅞	+1¼
Polaroid	257,700	40⅛	−⅛
General Motors	247,900	64⅞	+1⅞
Citicorp	246,700	32⅞	+⅞

TORONTO

INDUSTRIAL INDEX

Feb. 19	Feb. 18	1975-76 High	1975-76 Low
195.28	192.98	196.59 (15/7)	139.41 (3/1)

MONTREAL

INDUSTRIAL INDEX

Feb. 19	Feb. 18	1975-76 High	1975-76 Low
203.12	200.04	203.61 (15/7)	159.03 (3/1)

COMBINED INDEX

Feb. 19	Feb. 18	1975-76 High	1975-76 Low
196.45	193.96	198.09 (15/7)	138.03 (2/1)

JOHANNESBURG

	Feb. 19	Feb. 18	1975-76 High	1975-76 Low
Industrials ...	206.0	203.2	238.9 (15/7)	163.2 (23/1)
Golds ...	206.1	206.5	379.1 (12/1)	190.2 (8/12)

(1958=100.) Source: Rand Daily Mail.

MELBOURNE YIELDS

Av'ge yield on 50 Leading Stocks	Feb. 19	Feb. 12	Feb. 5
On Dividends	5.57	5.66	5.56
On Earnings	9.29	9.25	9.26

SYDNEY ALL ORD. INDEX

Feb. 20	Feb. 19	High 1975-6	Low 1975-6
452.37	450.28	472.06 (23/1/76)	289.88 (9/1)

TOKYO NEW SE INDEX

Base=100 January 4, 1968.

Feb. 20	Feb. 19	High 1975-76	Low 1975-76
333.18	330.75	342.84 (1/2/76)	268.24 (10/1)

HONG KONG INDEX ◆

Feb. 20	Feb. 19	High 1975-6	Low 1975-6
428.54	413.51	434.48 (4/2/76)	160.42 (9/1)

SINGAPORE INDEX §

Feb. 20	Feb. 19	High 1975-6	Low 1975-6
272.11	266.99	286.16 (3/2/76)	153.26 (6/1)

EUROPE

	Feb. 20	Previous	1975-6 High	1975-6 Low
Belg'm (a)	111.77	111.44	113.81 (5/2/76)	89.07 (2/1)
Denm'k (b)	102.21	102.80	107.79 (27/1/76)	75.06 (13/1)
France (d)	71.6	70.9	72.6 (23/4)	51.70 (2/1)
Germ'y (e)	792.7	794.0	797.0 (5/1/76)	573.5 (2/1)
Holland (f)	103.2	102.8	107.6 (6/5)	83.2 (2/10)
Italy (g)	89.54	88.16	108.28 (21/2)	75.41 (17/10)
Spain (h)	91.86	91.87	110.96 (22/4)	91.85 (19/9)
Sweden (k)	410.30	411.70	419.65 (6/2/76)	310.66 (9/1)
Switz'r'ld (m)	294.2	294.1	297.7 (15/1/76)	206.3 (2/1)

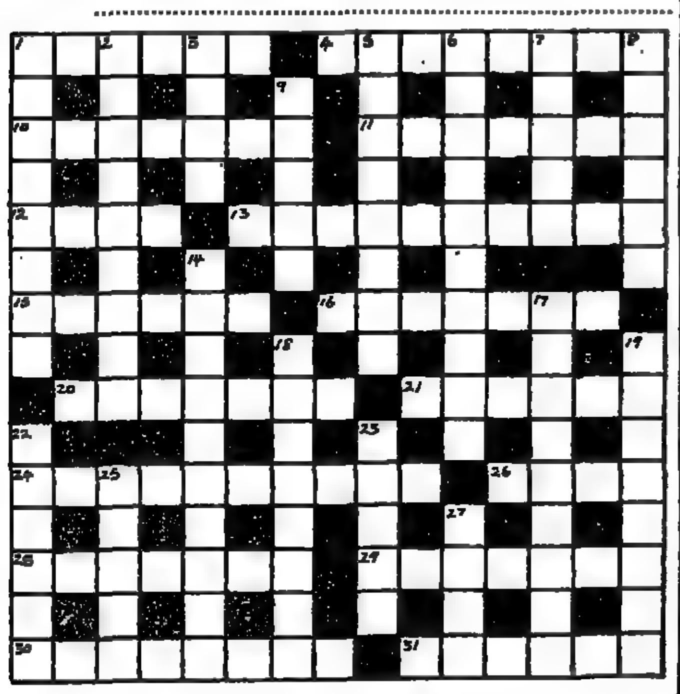
Indices and base dates (all base values 100):— (a) Belgian S.E. 31/12/63. (b) Copenhagen S.E. 1/1/73. (d) Paris Bourse 1961. (e) Commerzbank December 1953. (f) Amsterdam Industrial 1970. (g) Milan 2/1/73. (h) Madrid S.E. 31/12/74. (k) Stockholm Industrial 1/1/58. (m) Swiss Bank Corp. 31/12/58. (n) Unavailable. ◆ Hang Seng Bank 31/7/64. § Straits Times 1966. (c) Closed. † Adjusted.

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 3,011

A prize of £3 will be given to each of the senders of the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions must be received by next Thursday, marked Crossword in the top left-hand corner of the envelope, and addressed to the Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, London, EC4P 4BY. Winners and solution will be given next Saturday.

Name ....

Address ....



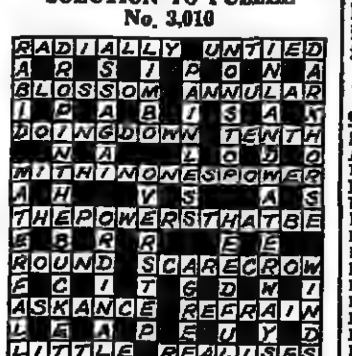
ACROSS

1 Fashionable doctor to thwart (6)
4 Soup kitchen needs to keep a drug supply (8)
10 Dismisses poetry in the wings (4, 3)
11 Refreshing break in the Spanish squares (7)
12 Right away from home defeat (4)
13 Dance has staggering effect on American city (6, 4)
15 Dangerous moment to give credit to one small relation (6)
16 Departed before Peter without expression (4-3)
20 Notice male revolutionary getting stuck (7)
21 Copper takes unusual poison (6)
24 Military decoration for continental celebrity (6, 4)
26 You appear old-fashioned (4)
28 It spells trouble or I'd burst (7)
29 A job the French find for leading advocate (7)
30 Possessing the right to have two directions named (8)
31 Penny fortunate to be courageous (6)

DOWN

1 Philosopher and family currently keeping the factory going (4, 4)
2 Any objection to question for potential baby-sitter? (2, 3, 4)
3 Way to work in bar (4)
5 Swinging period remembered by scores (8)
6 Broke as did a char abroad (7, 3)
7 Join a scrap (5)
8 Fight lets us go wrong (6)
9 Happening to a span of many a ruler (5)
14 Gaming place that children beginning school invite (5, 5)
17 Not caring for article to be pitied (9)
18 Libs seen to become conscious (8)
19 Object to cathedral being built in a modest way (8)
22 Divine to lose colour without a gentle row (6)
23 Caught a graduate giving pound to clique (5)
25 Tires when forced to take exam again (5)
27 Cry from Holland's capital by bird (4)

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE No. 3,010



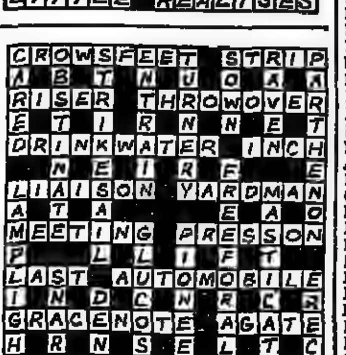
SOLUTION AND WINNERS OF PUZZLE No. 3,005

Following are the winners of last Saturday's prize puzzle:

Mr. G. M. Bridgeford, "Normandie" Rue Av. Long, Grouville, Jersey, C.I.

Mr. J. Frisken, 6 Rosebery Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk IP11 7JR.

Mr. W. Walsh, 3 Leeside, Dringhouses, York YO2 2P5.



RACING BY DOMINIC WIGAN

Rubstic best for Welsh National

RUBSTIC, who has had the misfortune of running up against the rapidly improving Forest King on his two most recent appearances, looks capable of gaining a well-deserved success in to-day's Joe Coral's Welsh Grand National (2.20) at Chepstow.

Gordon Richards' I Say gelding, who failed by a length to give 3 lb to Forest King's Newcastle Northern Trophy Chase on January 17, was beaten an additional five lengths by Ken Hogg's seven-year-old when re-opposing on 9 lb better terms in the Haydock National Trial Chase ten days ago.

Although Rubstic's last run might suggest that he has deteriorated since Newcastle, I feel sure that it was entirely a case of Forest King having made abnormal improvement.

In what promises to be another closely-fought running of this event, I take Rubstic to confirm his standing as one of the best stayers in the North by giving 4 lb to Mrs. Jenny Pitman's Spartan General seven-year-old, Gylippus, who recently achieved his third success of the campaign with a 25-length Leicester success over Hinterland.

There are few more consistent hurdlers in training than *Good Prospect*, and this Richard Evans-partnered gelding is sure to return to a warm reception if he manages to defy top weight of 11 stone, 13 lbs in the Clive Graham Trophy (1.45).

Good Prospect, who was a 1½-length runner-up to The Last Light, to whom he was trying to concede 3 lb, at Newcastle on his most recent appearance, will not find to-day's task an easy one. Nevertheless he is in fine trim, and with the fast ground in his favour, may prove capable of supplementing January's easily-gained Newbury and Haydock successes. Orosio, the fourth in that Newcastle event, has a fine record here and again looks capable of making the frame.

Thirty-five minutes after the Welsh National is run the four miles and one furlong Eider Chase (2.55) is due to start at Newcastle, and here the betting seems sure to be strongly influenced by Rubstic's Chepstow performance, for Forest King is in the line-up.

Whatever the fate of Rubstic I shall be more than surprised if *Forest King*, possibly the most improved chaser in training, fails to add to his string of successes. Clarification may follow him home.

Half-an-hour after the Eider Chase Clarification's jockey, Bob Davies, who with 56 winners to his name is now lying second to John Francome in the jockeys' table, looks set to win the Minnow Hurdle on Havanus. The seven-lengths winner of Newbury's Challow Hurdle on January 2, in which he made all the running to score at the main expense of Bailador, Havanus was equally impressive last time out when putting 15 lengths between himself and Ann's Dream in a weakly-contested event at Leicester.

Despite the presence of Sweet Joe, Gaelle and Humpty Dumpty, *Havanus* ought to score with the minimum of fuss.

CHEPSTOW
1.15—Double Negative
1.45—Good Prospect
2.20—Rubstic*
2.55—Miserable Jim
3.25—Red Power
3.55—Adored

LINGFIELD
2.00—Textron
2.30—Into View
3.00—Money Market

NEWCASTLE
1.45—Credit Call
2.55—Forest King***
3.30—Havanus**
4.00—Lovejoy
4.30—Wotdyknow

NOTTINGHAM
1.30—Midao
2.35—Adulation
3.05—Summer Dance

SPAIN ♥

February 20	Per cent.	
Asland	220	—
Banco Lopez Quesada	699	—
Banco Bilbao	818	−7
Banco Atlantico (1,000)	408	—
Banco Central	832	—
Banesto (250)	576	—
Banco Exterior	595	—
Banco General	330	—
Banco Granada (1,000)	370	—
Banco Hispano	519	—
Banco Iberico	617	+2
Induban	390	—
Banco Ind. Cat. (1,000)	395	—
Banco Mercantil (1,000)	911	−7
Banco Occidental	621	−6
Banco Popular	652	—
Banco Santander (250)	820	−14
Banco Urquijo (1,000)	585	—
Banco Vizcaya	660	+5
Banco Zaragozano	330	−3
Bankunion	352	—
Banks Andalucia	258	—
Altos Hornos	157	−2
Babcock Wilcox	122	—
CIC	470	−3
Dragados	780	+10
Inmobanif	138	—
E. I. Aragonesas	135	—
Espanola Zinc	220	—
Expl. Rio Tinto	299.25	+0.75
Fecsa (1,000)	114.50	+0.50
Fenosa (1,000)	114	—
Finanzauto SA	397	—
Finanzauto Servicios	403	−2
Gal. Preciados	390	—
Grupo Velazquez (400)	392	—
Hidrola	126.50	—
Iberduero	170	+3
Motor Iberica	250	—
Olarra	778	—
Petroliber	262	—
Petroleos	412	+8
Sarrio Papalera	204.50	−0.50
Solace	161	—
Telefonica	192.50	−0.75
Tabacera	304.50	−2.00
Union Elec.	124.50	+1.00
Union y Fenix	435	−5
Urbis	197	−1

NOTES: Overseas prices exclude $ premium. Belgian dividends are shown after withholding tax.
◆ DM50 denom. unless otherwise stated
♣ Kr.100 denom. unless otherwise stated
♥ Ptas 500 denom. unless otherwise stated
● Frs 500 denom. unless otherwise stated
¶ Yen 50 denom. unless otherwise stated
§ Price at time of suspension
a Florins. b Schillings. c Cents. d Dividend after pending rights and/or scrip issue. e Per share. f Francs. g Gross div %. h Assumed dividend after scrip and/or rights issue. k After local taxes. m % tax free. n Francs including Unilac div. p Nom. q Share split. s Div and yield exclude special payment. t Indicated div. u Unofficial trading. v Minority holders only. y Merger pending. * Asked. † Bid. § Traded. ‡ Seller. z Assumed. xr Ex rights. xd Ex dividend. xc Ex scrip issue. xa Ex all. △ Interim since increased.

OVERSEAS SHARE INFORMATION

NEW YORK

Stock	Feb. 19	Feb. 18
Addressograph	15⅛	12⅞
Aetna Life & Cas.	27⅞	26¾
Air Products	78⅞	76⅛
Airco	24	23⅛
Alcan Aluminium	25¼	24¼
Alcoa	49	46½
Allegheny Ludlum	38½	35⅞
Allegheny Power	19⅞	19¼
Allied Chemical	42	41⅞
Allied Stores	46⅝	46¼
Allis Chalmers	16⅛	15⅞
Corning Glass	56⅝	57
CPC Int'national	45⅝	45¾
Crane	69	66¾
Crocker Nat.	25⅛	24⅛
Crown Zellerbach	45¼	44⅛
Cummins Engine	26½	23½
Curtiss-Wright	14¼	14
Dana	23½	22⅞
Dart Industries	37¾	36
Deere	61⅝	60
Del Monte	24⅞	24⅝
Deltona	6⅛	6⅛
Johns Manville	28⅛	28
Johnson Johnson	89½	91⅛
Johnson Control	22¼	20⅝
Joy Manufacturing	43¼	42
Kaiser Aluminium	33⅞	32½
Kaiser Industries	10½	10½
Kaiser Steel	43½	42½
Kay	5⅛	3⅝
Kennecott	32¾	32⅛
Kerr McGee	68⅞	68
Kidde Walter	24¾	25⅝
Kimberly-Clark	43½	43¼
Koppers	50¼	49

[illegible]

CANADA

[illegible]

GERMANY ◆

[illegible]

MILAN

[illegible]

AUSTRALIA

[illegible]

BRUSSELS/LUXEMBOURG

[illegible]

SWITZERLAND ●

[illegible]

TOKYO ¶

[illegible]

Source Nikko Securities Tokyo.

PARIS

[illegible]

AMSTERDAM

[illegible]

JOHANNESBURG

MINES

[illegible]

INDUSTRIALS

[illegible]

COPENHAGEN

[illegible]

STOCKHOLM

[illegible]

OSLO ♣

[illegible]

VIENNA

[illegible]

EEC to set up advisory group on accountancy

BY MICHAEL LAFFERTY, CITY STAFF

[TH]E EUROPEAN Commission, [at] the request of the U.K. [De]partment of Trade, has agreed [to] set up a permanent accoun[tan]cy advisory committee to help [ke]ep the proposed company [acc]ounts directives up to date.

[T]his is disclosed in a report* [of] proceedings at the working [par]ties of the Council of [Mi]nisters, in Brussels, published [to]day by the Institute of Char[ter]ed Accountants in England [an]d Wales.

[T]he report gives a point by [poi]nt account of discussions by [go]vernment experts of the nine [Me]mber-States on the contents [of] the proposed fourth directive, [wh]ich represents a substantial [par]t of the Commission's pro[gra]mme for harmonisation of [Eu]ropean company law.

[T]he directive has attracted [con]siderable criticism in the [U.K.] because of its inflexibility [and] bias towards allegedly [sup]erior Franco-German account[ing] systems.

In its present form it requires companies to adopt standard layout in their annual accounts and specifies certain accounting rules.

Although the original proposal was amended in 1974 to include the U.K. concept that accounts must, above all, give a true and fair view, there is still much uneasiness about this on the Continent. The previous wording, which required accounts to comply with the law and "principles of regular and proper accounting," continues to be preferred by Germany, France, Belgium and Luxembourg.

More flexible

In the more tangible area of formats for standardised accounts the U.K. argues that these cannot be considered as maximum requirements and must take account of all needs. However, Germany, France and Denmark maintain that layouts "cannot be left to the free choice of companies."

Mr. Edoardo Volpi, a senior Brussels official, recently indicated that the Commission was now prepared to adopt a more flexible approach to the fourth directive. The Commission also hoped to publish by Easter its proposals on consolidated accounts, he added.

The fourth directive is now subject to a second reading by the Council of Ministers working party. It may be approved by 1978 and brought into force throughout the Community in 1980.

"Progress Report on the Harmonisation of Accounting in Europe," published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, Chartered Accountants' Hall, Moorgate Place, London EC2R 6EQ. Reference TR 174.

Plowden may head 'equity bank'

By Margaret Reid

LORD PLOWDEN, who is soon to retire as chairman of Tube Investments, says that the improvement of relations between the City and industry would provide the main interest for him were he to take the chairmanship of the proposed "equity bank."

After the news that he was stepping down in May as head of TI, one of Britain's largest engineering groups, Lord Plowden confirmed that he might become chief of the "bank," envisaged as a source of capital for companies unable to raise it on the stock market.

At the moment, plans for the "bank," perhaps to be known as Equity Capital for Industry, are still the subject of discussion and a degree of controversy in a working party headed by Mr. Ernest Bigland, chairman of the British Insurance Association.

"If the body is formed and enough people really want to make it work, and they ask me, I should consider very seriously taking on the chairmanship," said Lord Plowden.

"I think there is a gap of understanding between manufacturing industry and financial institutions, and anything done to close it would be welcome," he added. He considered the divide between these two elements of the business community greater than in other countries."

Lord Plowden, who is 69, has been chairman of TI since 1963. He was head of the Government's Economic Planning Board from 1947-53 and afterwards chief of the Atomic Energy Authority.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. J. Rooke joins Fodens Board

Mr. James S. Rooke, formerly chief executive of the British Overseas Trade Board, has been elected a FODENS director.

★

Mr. D. S. Hudson, secretary of PROCTER AND GAMBLE, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, has joined the Board. Mr. R. S. Burnett is leaving it to become Director, Corporate Affairs, of Procter and Gamble, France.

★

Mr. L. R. Burchell, general manager of organisation planning for BP, will be appointed deputy managing director of BP Chemicals International and of BP Chemicals in April, and will succeed the present managing directed, Mr. J. S. Hunter, who retires in November. BP CHEMICALS will become the operational chemicals company based in the U.K. with a reconstituted Board of which Mr. P. I. Walters, a managing director of BP, will be chairman.

★

Three WASHINGTON INVESTMENT directors—Mr. F. E. P. Sandilands, Mr. G. J. Chandler and Mr. P. S. G. Cazelet—have resigned. Mr. C. H. W. Troughton, Mr. H. D. H. Wills and Mr. L. Butler-Henderson have been appointed to the Board.

★

Mr. Buster Hultman has been appointed managing director of ATLANTIC CONTAINER LINE SERVICES and will join the company in Southampton on August 16. ACLS is a subsidiary of ACL, of whose Dutch shareholders, Intercontinental Transport, Mr. Hultman is at present a vice-president. He will take over from Mr. Arne Koch, who joins TOR LINE.

★

IMPERIAL GROUP directors Mr. C. B. Berry and Mr. H. S. Swallow have resigned as from the close of Monday's annual general meeting.

★

Mr. J. R. F. Raw has been appointed a director of J. L. KIER.

★

Mr. Geoffrey Knight, a director of Guinness Peat Group and executive vice-chairman of Fenchurch Insurance Holdings, has been appointed chairman of FENCHURCH NORTHERN INSURANCE BROKERS, FENCHURCH NORTH WESTERN INSURANCE BROKERS and FENCHURCH MIDLANDS INSURANCE BROKERS, three newly formed companies in the Fenchurch group. The director with overall executive responsibility for the provincial companies will be Mr. David Jago, who is also a director of Fenchurch Insurance Holdings. Fenchurch Northern will be under the local direction of Mr. Bryan Webb. Other directors of the Board will be Mr. R. Ashby and Mr. C. A. Cheeseman with Mr. B. Mudd, Mr. D. R. Nichols and Mr. P. Saddington as assistant directors. In charge of Fenchurch North Western will be Mr. Tim Fowle, with Mr. C. A. Cheeseman and Mr. R. D. Jackson as additional directors and Mr. B. A. Renwick and Mr. K. Schofield assistant directors. Fenchurch Midlands, will be managed by Mr. John Dady. Other directors of this company are Mr. E. R. Bennett, Mr. C. A. Cheeseman and Mr. C. J. Shaw, with Mr. D. M. Amos, Mr. D. A. Callaghan and Mr. M. A. Stanyon assistant directors.

★

Mr. P. W. A. Simmonds has been appointed a non-executive director of LEYLAND PAINT AND WALLPAPER. He is a director of County Bank.

★

Mr. David Simpson has been appointed managing director of GOULD ADVANCE, responsible for the Divisions at Hainault and Bishop's Stortford, Advance Filmcap at Rhosmyedre in N. Wales, and the Division at Seligenstadt, W. Germany.

★

Mr. Michael Fewtrell has joined the Board of F. G. MINTER to be responsible for surveying, estimating and purchasing.

★

Mr. Peter Quick has been appointed to the new post of director and general manager of SELF-CHANGING GEARS, a company in the Leyland Special Products group.

★

Mr. Michael Childs has been elected a director of J. H. MINET, BAXTER.

★

Mr. L. D. Salmon, commercial director of ARGOSY ENGINEERING, has bten appointed a director and general manager.

★

Mr. T. J. Clark has been appointed director and general manager at BALFOUR KILPATRICK INTERNATIONAL.

★

Ms. Ann Petrie has been appointed managing director of ADPOWER, now a subsidiary of Randstad International.

★

Mr. David Smith has been appointed CONSERVATIVE CENTRAL OFFICE agent for the north-west area, succeeding Mr. Tony Garner, recently appointed director of organisation in London.

★

Mr. E. S. Gibbons has relinquished his position as chairman of W. WOOD AND SON, and as a director of its subsidiaries.

★

Mr. Roger Lucas will become financial director of ASSOCIATED FISHERIES when Mr. Andrew Barrowman retires. Mr. Malcolm Perkins, managing director of Eastern Produce (Holdings), has joined the A.F. Board.

★

Mr. W. J. Green has been appointed deputy chairman of WALL PAPER MANUFACTURERS and relinquishes the position of chief executive of Crown Decorative Products, a subsidiary. Mr. L. G. Young, a director of WPM and managing director of Polycell, becomes chief executive of ARTHUR SANDERSON AND SONS, with Mr. P. N. Clancy and Mr. J. R. King continuing as joint managing directors. Mr. W. J. Redgewell will be chief executive of Polycell and becomes a director of WPM.

DO SOME INVESTORS HAVE AN

UNFAIR ADVANTAGE?

—Then why not join them by taking out a joint subscription to the INVESTORS REVIEW—the City's fortnightly—and the IR MID-WEEK MARKET LETTER, the confidential weekly letter edited by top analyst Charles Whitcomb.

On January 28 the MARKET LETTER recommended Northborough Investment Trust at 5p as a 'speculation—better buy now than later.' Within one week the shares had jumped to 9½p and readers had a 50% profit. The same day the MARKET LETTER tipped Burmah Oil at 35p. Within the week the shares stood at 50p.

We can't promise performance like this every week but at £20 for one year, a joint subscription to both magazine and letter is the kind of value that can't be beaten.

INVESTORS REVIEW

ESTABLISHED 1892

Regular contributors to Investors Review now include RICHARD LAMB, formerly City Press editor, and Leslie Parker, former mining editor of the Financial Times—read them in INVESTORS REVIEW.

ORDER FORM. Please send me Investors Review for 1 year ... £9 post paid

IR Midweek Market Letter ... £15 post paid

Combined subscription 1 year ... £20 post paid

Name ....

Address ....

FT.11

To INVESTORS REVIEW, 100 Fleet Street, London, E.C.4.

Roman bath site to go on show

[TH]E CORPORATION of London [is t]o embark on a project which [will] make the site of a large [priv]ate Roman bath and part of [an a]djoining house, dated about [...] AD, available to public [view]ing.

[Th]e site is below the old Coal [Exch]ange in Billingsgate, and [wor]k undertaken by archaeolo[gists] for the corporation has [reve]aled parts of the bath and [hou]se not previously uncovered.

[Th]ey have found the main [entr]ance to the Third Century [Rom]an bath and vestibule. A [ti]led floor beneath the door[way] was found to have been worn [dow]n by the feet of bathers as [they] entered the bath buildings.

[Th]e excavation which has just [been] completed was made [poss]ible by the corporation, [whic]h is developing the site and [whic]h owns the freehold.

[Mr]. Brian Hobley, chief urban [arch]aeologist of the Museum of [Lond]on, whose staff is super[visin]g the excavation, said the [disco]veries include the tessel[late]d corridor and three heated [room]s of a large house adjoining [the b]ath.

[Th]e project includes the pro[visio]n of a viewing platform [wher]e visitors can see the site. It [will] include a display of finds.

[Th]e Roman site has now been [seale]d off while the rest of the [site] development is proceeding. [Earl]ier excavations revealed a [...] room with a seat for two [peop]le, a hot steam room, a [hyp]ocaust system and a drain [of h]ollowed logs.

Accounting for variety

BY MICHAEL LAFFERTY, CITY STAFF

THE wide variety of international accounting practices is highlighted in a new survey of accounting principles and reporting practices in 46 countries.

The survey was prepared by Price Waterhouse, the large international accounting firm.

For instance, full consolidated accounts, which have been required in the U.K. since 1948, are common in only 27 of the countries, and are not required by law in any European country, apart from Holland and Denmark.

Accounting practices adhere strictly to tax requirements — generally resulting in doubtful accounting information—in 11 countries, including France, Germany, Italy and Sweden.

Furthermore, income taxes are accounted for on a cash basis (that is as they are paid), rather than on the more meaningful accrual basis, in Switzerland, Italy and Spain.

Accounting Principles and Reporting Practices. A survey in 46 Countries, Price Waterhouse, London.

Petrol sign talks soon

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

PETROL-RETAILERS are to meet officials of the Office of Fair Trading again shortly to discuss proposals for curbing misleading pricing signs adopted by some garages since the outbreak of the petrol price war.

At a meeting this week the Petroleum Retailers' Association rejected a suggestion that all garages display their prices in a common form outside their premises. The association said it would be "suicide" for garages not selling cut-price petrol to have to exhibit a sign which would, the association claims, have the effect of "advising customers to go elsewhere for cheap petrol."

Though the association insists that the only long-term solution is for the Government to introduce a minimum petrol price, it says that, like the Motor Agents' Association, it wants to stamp out misleading advertising of petrol prices, which is proliferating at the moment.

It hopes that a voluntary solution can be worked out with the Office of Fair Trading.

One solution would be for garages to agree on a common format for showing petrol prices, but leave it to individual garages whether they displayed it outside their premises.

BBC colour for Orkney

IT WAS D-DAY for colour TV in Orkney when the new BBC1 and BBC2 transmitting station at Keelylang Hill, near Kirkwall, officially opened yesterday. Independent Television has been operating from Keelylang since the end of last year.

The number of licences for colour TV has been rising in Orkney by 50 per month since April last and now totals 1,344. With 4,164 licences for black-and-white, the viewing audience in the islands is 15,000.

'New pennies' to go

The word "new" is to be omitted from all coins minted from next year, Mr. Denzil Davies, Minister of State at the Treasury, said in a Commons written reply yesterday.

He told Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg (Con., Hampstead) that to balance the designs the denominational values would be expressed in words as well as in figures. No other significant changes would be made. A Royal proclamation under the Coinage Act 1971 would be made in due course.

Mr. Davies also said that no early decision on the 2½p coin was likely. The position was being kept under review.

Victor Britain.
It's how the other half travels.

Victor Britain is the way that Prime Ministers, Presidents and Kings travel. It's the way you can travel, too.

Just give us a call. We'll have a fine, new limousine and a chauffeur ready for you. All ready to give you the smoothest, most comfortable ride possible.

So sit back, relax and find out how the other half travels.

VICTOR BRITAIN

The chauffeur drive service of Avis Rent a Car
01-262 3134

[C]OMMODITIES/Review of the week

Tin leaps to 12-month peak

[B]Y OUR COMMODITIES STAFF

[TIN] PRICES rose sharply on the [Lond]on Metal Exchanges yester[day], registering hefty gains. [Stand]ard grade cash tin leapt by [...] to £3,252.5 a tonne, its [highe]st point for over a year.

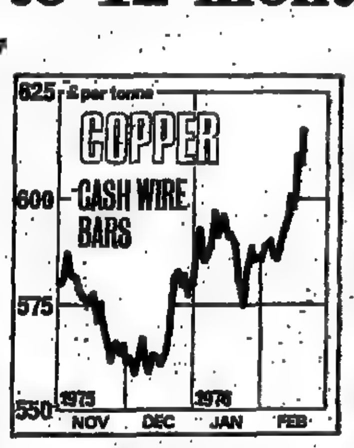
[A] rise in the Penang market [overn]ight, recouping all the [falls e]arlier in the week, encour[aged] a firm opening tone in [Lond]on and prices moved ahead [on] speculative and stop-loss [buyin]g.

[It] was suggested the increase [migh]t be anticipating a rise in [the p]rice ranges under the Inter[natio]nal Tin Agreement which [produ]cing countries are expected [to pr]ess for at the next meeting [of th]e Tin Council early in [...].

[Ho]wever an equally likely de[velop]ment at the meeting is the [easin]g of the present severe [curbs] on tin exports.

[A] feature of the London tin [marke]t is the increased trading [activi]ty in the high-grade con[tract] with its premium over the [stand]ard grade prices widening [even] further this week.

[Cop]per prices also advanced [stron]gly. Cash wirebars rose to [...] a tonne, £21 up on the [week] and the highest level since August. Predictions of a [signif]icant decline in warehouse [stock]s, and continued uncertainty [over] developments in Africa, have made sellers reluctant and encouraged buying interest, mainly from speculators. Some dealers feel the market may now be very vulnerable to profit-taking.



Lead, zinc and silver markets have followed the uptrend in copper and the general optimism about improved business activity especially in the U.S.

But there were unconfirmed rumours last night that U.S. zinc producers were planning another cut in domestic prices.

In the absence of any significant buying interest coffee prices declined steadily and a £12 a tonne fall yesterday left the May position £22 down on the week at £869.5 a tonne. The announcement of a sizeable rise in internal support prices for Brazil's coffee growers sparked off a minor recovery in prices, but this was short-lived.

The U.S. confirmed yesterday that it intended to sign the International Coffee agreement negotiated last year.

The cocoa market started the week with an easier tone which was generally attributed to the failure of prices to hold the gains registered following the Nigerian coup.

But as selling dried up the market became distinctly oversold and, with dealers coming back to the market to cover earlier sales, prices began a recovery which took the May position up to £752 a tonne at one stage.

Yesterday, however, profit-taking set in late in the afternoon and the May position closed at £748.5 a tonne, up £14.75 on the week.

Australian auction prices for wool showed signs of slipping early in the week and an uncertain tone was noted at later sales in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The cutback in demand was reflected in a 2p cut in the Bradford wooltops 64s price to 215p a kilo.

[WE]EKLY PRICE CHANGES

[illegible]

MARKET REPORTS

BASE METALS

[illegible]

FREIGHTS

[illegible]

RUBBER

[illegible]

SILVER

[illegible]

COCOA

[illegible]

COFFEE

[illegible]

GRAINS

[illegible]

SOYABEAN MEAL

[illegible]

SUGAR

[illegible]

MEAT/VEGETABLES

[illegible]

WOOL FUTURES

[illegible]

JUTE

[illegible]

COTTON

[illegible]

FINANCIAL TIMES

[illegible]

REUTER'S

[illegible]

DOW JONES

[illegible]

MOODY'S

[illegible]

U.S. Markets

Strong tone in silver, cocoa firm

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.

SILVER closed strongly on local short covering, reflecting Commission House stop-loss orders above yesterday's highs. Cocoa finished firm on good chartist buying. Sugar closed lower on trade selling in spite of reported earthquake off the Cuban coast and suspension of sales by Columbia. Grains were bolstered by lack of moisture in the Mid West, Bache reports.

Cocoa—Ghana spot 77 (75½). Bahia spot 72 (same). March 70.75 (68.95), May 67.05 (65.85), July 64.25, Sept. 62.00, Dec. 59.50, March 57.90, May 56.90, July unquoted. Sales: 2,140.

Coffee—"C" Contract: March 101.25-101.00 (101.05), May 100.80-100.70 (100.30), July 100.60-100.65, Sept. 100.50-100.80, Dec. 100.10-100.20. Sales: 404.

Copper—Feb. 57.30 (57.20), March 57.40 (57.20), April 57.50, May 56.30, July 59.20. Sales: 2,008 lots.

Cotton—March 60.50-60.90 (60.52), May 62.00-62.05 (61.55), July 62.55-62.70, Oct. 60.75, Dec. 59.15-59.20, March 59.80-60.00, May 60.00-60.25, July 60.25-60.50. Sales: 3,500.

Gold—Feb. 130.30 (130.00), March 130.20 (130.00), April 130.30, June 131.70, Aug. 132.40, Oct. 133.60, Dec. 134.90, Feb. 136.20, April 137.60, June 138.80. Sales: 912.

Greasewool—Spot 166.0 nom. (same), March 163.0-168.0 (163.0), May 162.0-163.0 (162.0), July 159.5-165.0, Oct. 160.0-164.0, Dec. 160.0-164.0, March 160.0-165.0, May nil.

†Lard—Chicago loose 19½ (19½ nom.), NY prime steam 20½ asked (21 asked).

††Maize—March 269½-270 (269½), May 275½-275¼ (275½), July 279½, Sept. 278½-278, Dec. 272-273½, March 279-279½, May 282 nom.

‡Platinum—April 135.40 (137.50), July 140.80 (139.50), Oct. 143.30, Jan. 146.10-146.30, April 149.10-149.30, July 151.90-152.10. Sales: 57.

[illegible]

This week's SE dealings

Friday, February 20	6,510	Wednesday, February 18	5,750	Monday, February 16	7,340
Thursday, February 19	5,757	Tuesday, February 17	6,120	Friday, February 13	4,985

The list below records all yesterday's markings and also the latest markings during the week of any share not dealt in yesterday. The latter can be distinguished by the date (in parentheses).

The number of dealings marked in each section follows the name of the section. Unless otherwise denoted shares are £1 fully paid and stock £100 fully paid. Stock Exchange securities are quoted in pounds and fractions of pounds or in new pence and fractions of new pence.

The list below gives the prices at which bargains done by members of The Stock Exchange have been recorded in The Stock Exchange Daily Official List. Members are not obliged to mark bargains, except in special cases, and the list cannot, therefore, be regarded as a complete record of prices at which business has been done. Bargains are recorded in the Official List up to 2.15 p.m. only, but later transactions can be included in the following day's Official List. No indication is available as to whether a bargain represents a sale or purchase by members of the public. Markings are not necessarily in order of execution, and only one bargain in any one security at any one price is recorded.

‡ Bargains at Special Prices. Δ Bargains done with or between non-members. ● Bargains done previous day. § Bargains done with members of a recognised Stock Exchange. ♣ Bargains done for delayed delivery or "no buying-in." $A—$Australian; $B—$Bahamian; $C—$Canadian; $HK—$Hong Kong; $J—$Jamaican; $Ma—$Malaysian; $Me—$Mexican; $NZ—$New Zealand; $S—$Singapore; $U.S.—$United States; $WI—$West Indian.

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC. (748)

SHORT DATED BONDS

PUBLIC BDS., ETC.—U.K. (26)

COMMONWEALTH GOVT. AND PROVINCIAL SECURITIES (21)

COMMONWEALTH CORPN. STOCKS (1)

FOREIGN STKS., BDS., ETC. (1)

CORPN. AND COUNTY—U.K. (33)

Camden Cpn. 6½pc 85⅞ (19/2)
Cardiff Cpn. 7pc 77¹⁄₁₆ 7 (19/2)
Croydon 6¼pc 78 (18/2)
Derby Cpn. 5½pc 93 (18/2)
Dunbarton C.C. 9½pc 89¼ (19/2)
Edinburgh Cpn. 5pc 94⅛ ¼ (17/2). 6½pc 85 ¼ (19/2)
Essex 5½pc 94 (19/2)
Glasgow 24●. 9¼pc 88¼ (17/2)
Greenwich Cpn. 6¼pc 88¼ (18/2)
Hampshire C.C. 9¼pc 91 (17/2)
Hendon Cpn. 5pc 96 35-64ths ⁹⁄₁₆ (17/2)
Hertfordshire 5¼pc 78¼. 5½pc 83¾ 4¼

CORPN. STKS.—FOREIGN (—)

U.K. AND COMMONWEALTH RAILWAYS (6)

FOREIGN RAILWAYS (—)

Antofagasta (Chili Bolivia) Rly. 11 (17/2). 5pcPf. 34 (17/2). 4pcDb. 38 (18/2)
Chilian Northern Rly. 5pcDbs. 74 (18/2)
Costa Rica 27 (17/2)

BANKS & DISCOUNT COS. (271)

Alexanders Discount 227 (16/2)
Allen Harvey Ross 475●
Allied Irish Banks (25p) 119●. 10pcCnv. Uns.Sub.Ln. 119 21 (17/2)
Arbuthnot Latham Hldgs. 165 (17/2). 8pc Conv.Uns.Ln. 102¾ ½ (18/2)

Australia and New Zealand Bkg. Gp. 402
Bank America Corpn. Com. ($US3.125) 38¼ (18/2)
Bank Leumi (U.K.) 200 (19/2)
Bank Ireland 345. 7pcLn. 54●. 10pc Cnv.Sub.Uns.Ln. 142 (17/2)
Bank New South Wales (Lon. Reg.) ($A2) 640 1
Bank Nova Scotia ($C2) 34½ (17/2)
Bank Scotland 300● 300 290: 303 4

BREWERIES & DISTILLS. (178)

CANALS AND DOCKS (10)

COMMERCIAL, INDUSTL. (3,631)

A—B

C—D

E—F

G—H

I—J—K

L—M

N—O—P

Q—R—S

PLA may sell 100 acres to Tower Hamlets

THE PORT OF LONDON Authority is negotiating to sell 100 acres in the old East London docks area to Tower Hamlets Borough Council. A special meeting of the full council has been called for next Wednesday to consider a draft contract which prices the land at about £3¾m.

Tower Hamlets intends to buy the land from revenue account and to use 43 acres of it to provide housing for 5,000 council tenants. Nearly 30 acres will be left as open space, with most of the balance leased to Riverside London.

This is a joint company, 65 per cent. owned by the Port of London Authority and 35 per cent. by Town and City Properties. It has an existing planning application to develop industrial and office buildings.

Riverside London had previously taken a 125-year lease on half the site from the PLA, with an option to buy the rest. The site runs from Thomas More Street in the West to Wapping Wall in the East.

Town and City Properties became involved in the scheme by providing land in the area acquired through Wharf Holdings.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cms.) L	U	State of Piste	Weather	°C
Anzere	65	120	Fair	Sun	4
Champery	30	80	Good	Fine	4
Crans	30	100	Good	Fine	3
Davos	30	130	Good	Fine	5
Kitzbuhel	40	120	Good	Fine	7
Les Menuires	75	140	Good	Fine	—3
Sauze d'Oulx	70	160	Good	Cloud	—7
Seefeld	33	105	Good	Fine	5
Val d'Isere	95	170	Good	Fine	—1
Wengen	45	100	Good	Sun	5

Above reports supplied by Ski Club of Great Britain. Following reports are from other sources:

SPAIN

Cerler	40	100	Good	Sun	—4
La Molina	10	60	Fair	Cloud	—3
La Tuca	33	115	Good	—	—

NORWAY

Finse	210	240	Good	—	—17
Lillehammer	45	70	Good	—	—9
Oslo	45	55	Good	—	—3
Voss	125	145	Good	—	—4

FRANCE

Avron	100	170	Good	Sun	—
Le Corbier	80	200	Good	Sun	—
Les Arcs	100	155	Good	Sun	—
Superdevoluy	60	250	Good	Sun	—

OBITUARY

ARTHUR PLAIRRE

Arthur Plairre, long associated with the Financial Times and a member of the Stock Exchange from 1934 until 1975, has died at the age of 73.

On his admission to the House as a jobber, he specialised in mining stocks but gave up active trading in 1961. In the early 1940s, his intimate knowledge of the market allied to his considerable flair for writing led to an invitation from the late Hargreaves Parkinson, then Editor of The Financial News, to report on events in the mining markets. He was an excellent and erudite contributor. Since the merger of the two newspapers in 1945 he continued to provide his knowledge to The Financial Times as one of the paper's representatives on the floor of the House until the onset of his illness nine days ago.

THE STANDARD TRUST LIMITED

Remnant & Co. Touche Remnant & Co.

Extracts from the comments of the Chairman on the 1975 accounts.

During 1975 the threat of financial disaster for the U.K. economy, a possibility at the end of 1974, had receded. The company's portfolio which had been defensive in character has been able to return to a more traditional stance. With two-fifths of equity holdings invested abroad, Standard Trust will be able to participate in the world wide recovery anticipated in the months ahead. Holdings of British company shares predominate however and shareholders' fortunes depend on no relaxation of the more realistic policies recently being followed by government. The hint that dogmatic, socialist political principles are being shaded to pay more regard to profitability has become more firmly justified. Government is realising that without industrial profitability there is no additional money either for industrial investment, the payroll or government spending. More sensible policies are beginning to control inflation, but leading trade unionists are under pressure to influence government to relax its effort. This must be resisted.

The Board continues to give importance to increasing the dividend to shareholders and it has been possible to increase the year's dividend by almost 10%. The dividend is now 36% above that of 1972—a compound growth rate of 11%, which regrettably only goes part way to mitigate the effect of inflation.

RECORD OF THE LAST TEN YEARS

Year to 31st Dec.	Total Income £	Dividend Paid p	Total Net Assets £	Net Asset Value p
1966	1,355,693	3.625	23,641,465	81
1969	1,343,384	4.000	36,174,642	135½
1972	1,488,772	4.750	51,394,719	204
1974	2,149,943	5.875	25,889,361	[illegible]
1975	2,205,844	6.462	38,460,476	148½

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary, Winchester Hse., 77 London Wall, London EC2N 1BH.

ARBUTHNOT

Jascot North Sea & General Fund

Invest in Britain's Oil Wealth

The first specialist North Sea Unit Trust.

- Oil is now flowing into the UK at an ever increasing rate. The benefits from this will be felt throughout the economy.
- The Trust has major investments in substantial corporations who will benefit from this oil flow.
- The aim of the Fund is Capital Growth. Current estimated yield 3·3%.
- This Fund is in a position to borrow foreign currency to re[duce] its investment premium exposure.

The Managers reserve the right to close this offer should the value of units rise by more than 2½%.
The price of units, and the income from them may go down as well as up.
Your investment should be regarded as long term.

Trustees
The Royal Bank of Scotland Ltd.
Managers
Arbuthnot Securities Limited.
(Registered in Edinburgh 46694).
Member of the Association of Unit Trust Managers.
Directors:
H. H. Trevor Dawson (Chairman), A. Pickles, O.B.E., J.P., (Deputy Chairman), A. R. C. Arbuthnot, M. G. Barrett, C. D. Lawton, F.C.A., J. Roy, A.C.C.A., Professor Roland Smith, B.A., M.Sc., PhD(Econ).

GENERAL INFORMA[TION]

All net income is accumulated w[ithin the] fund to increase the value of units. Applications will be acknowle[dged and] unit certificates will be issued [within] days of the close of this offer. Th[e] (offer) price includes an initial [charge of] 5%. The annual charge is ⅜% + V[AT]. After the close of this offer uni[ts may be] purchased at the weekly dealing p[rice on] Thursday. Units can also be sol[d on] any such dealing day and you wi[ll receive] their cash value within a few [days of] receipt of your renounced certific[ate. You] will be able to find the weekly p[rice and] yield in all leading newspaper[s. On] November 15th you will receive an [annual] report and notional distribution s[tatement] covering the year ending Septem[ber]. A commission of 1¼% will be pa[id to re]cognised agents. This offer is not [open to] residents of The Republic of Irela[nd].

This offer remains open until 27 February 1976 at 22·7p per un[it]
(or the managers' dealing price if lower)

To: Arbuthnot Securities Ltd., 21 Leven St., Edinburgh EH3 9LH, or phone: 031-228 1421 and ask for dealers.

I/We wish to invest the sum of £............(min. £200) in Jascot North [Sea &] General Fund accumulation units and enclose a cheque payable to Arbu[thnot] Securities Ltd.

I/We declare that I am/we are over 18 and not resident outside the sche[duled] territories nor am I/are we acquiring the above mentioned securities as the nomi[nee] of any person(s) resident outside these territories. (If you are unable to mak[e this] declaration, it should be deleted and the form lodged through your Bank, S[tock]broker, or Solicitor in the United Kingdom.)

Signature(s)______
(In case of joint applicants, all must sign.) (State Mr/Mrs/Miss or Titles and Forena[mes])
Full Name(s)______
Address(es)______

NS15 FT.2

For details of our share exchange scheme tick this box ☐ For details of our monthly savings scheme tick this box ☐

هكذا اصل الأصل

FEBRUARY 18

Amsterdam Rotterdam Bank £24¼●
Australian Devpts 24½●
Ciba Gelgy 7¼pcCnv. £93½ ¼
Colonial Sugar Refineries 390
Containers Ltd. 202
EZ Inds. 355
Herald and Weekly Times 6½pcPf. 120
Highveld Steel 113
Hong Kong Wampoa Docks 152
Lewis (H.) 240
Marra Devpts. 7pcCnv.Pf. 120
Murray and Roberts 152
Myer Emporium 9pcPf. 160

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1975/76

The following securities (numbers in parentheses) among those quoted in the Share Information Service yesterday attained new highs and lows for 1975-76.

NEW HIGHS (29)

BRITISH FUNDS (3)
Treas. 6½pc 197 — Treas. 9pc 1980
Treas. 6¼pc 1977 — Treas. 9pc 1978

AMERICANS (6)
Bell and Howell — Colt Inds.
Bendix Con. — Cummins Eng.
Carborundum — Rexnord

CANADIANS (3)
Canadian Pacific — Massey Ferguson
Hawker Siddeley

BUILDINGS (1)
Hall (W. W.)

ELECTRICALS (1)
Jones Stroud

ENGINEERING (3)
Bevan (D. F.) — Victor Prods.
Mom Eng.

FOODS (2)
Fox's Biscuits — Meat Trade Suppliers

INDUSTRIALS (3)
Gibbons Dudley — United Gas Ind.
Monsanto 5pc 1982-86

PROPERTY (1)
Burton M. Prop.

SHIPPING (1)
Felixstowe Dock

TEXTILES (1)
Caird (Dundee)

TRUSTS (2)
M. & G. Dual Inc. — Akroyd & Smithers

OVERSEAS TRADERS (1)
Harrisons and Crosfield

TEAS (1)
Peacock Sesini

NEW LOWS (10)

FOODS (1)
FMC

INDUSTRIALS (1)
Clough (A.)

OILS (1)
Attock

MINES (7)
East Rand Prop. — West Drie
East Daggafontein — Gold Fields S.A.
Winkelhaak — Hampton Areas
Doornfontein

FEBRUARY 17

Suthland Royalty £42½●
Unilever NV (Fl.20) £37¾
US Tst. Co. of New York
Volkswagen £48¼●
Whim Creek 42
Woolworth Hldgs. A 200
Yukon Consd. 110

FEBRUARY 17

Abitibi Paper 9½pcDds. 19
Ampol Exploration 93
Aramis £24
Anglo Alpha Cement $US0.7
Australian Consd. Inds. 140
Australian Oil Gas 13
BP Canada 835
Bell Canada 5¼pcBds. (27.7
Bethlehem Steel £33¾
Dorman Long (SA) 440●
Masnati Asbestos 200
Met. Cash (SA) 203
NL Industries £13¼●
National Bank of Australasia New 285
Noranda Mines A £26½
Repco 52
Rhodesian Brewery 75
Scudder Duovest $US6.23●
Swire Pacific A 143 4
Vulcan Inds. 175
Westmex 6

FEBRUARY 16

Acmex 18
American Can Con. £27¼
American Cyanamid £21½
Anamint £27½●
Anchor Hocking $US28●
Canadian Cement 820
Clorox Co. $US14●
Exxon Oil £71●
Fabermerlin 70
Jardine Secs. 146 9
Mohawk Data $US4●
Nationale Netherlands 29½
New Metal 1½
Pechiney £18¼
Petrofina £115
Phillips Copper 17
Sabina Inds. 104● 100
Smith Int. $US33●
Swire Cheung 38½●
United Telecommunications £12½●
Westralian Nickel (20c pd.)
Wheelock Maritime B 50
Woolworth A 235

(By permission of the Stock Exchange Council)

RISES AND FALLS YESTERDAY

	Up	Down	Same
British Funds	8	42	9
Corpns. Dom. and Foreign Bonds	14	7	43
Industrials	136	668	921
Financial and Prop.	72	302	250
Oils	4	12	18
Plantation	6	9	30
Mines	30	45	72
Recent Issues	4	15	19
Totals	232	1,120	1,352

ACTIVE STOCKS

ON THE WEEK—

Stock	Denomination	No. of marks	Closing price (p)	Change on week	1975/6 high	1975/6 low
De Beers Defd.	R0.05	109	270	−15	335	161
ICI	£1	95	381	+1	387	118
Lonrho	25p	59	124	−3	159	68
P & O Defd.	£1	58	96	−13	128	59½
"Bats"	25p	57	346	−4	377	164
Shell Transport	25p	56	380	−8	404	118
Burmah Oil	£1	54	47	—	100	27
Cons. Gold Fields	25p	54	179	−12	290	175
GEC	25p	52	146	−6	162	51
RTZ	25p	50	186	−6	211	80
BP	£1	47	583	−3	615	190
Marks & Spencer	25p	44	100	−7	128	47½
Courtaulds	25p	42	137	−0	160	33
Standard Chart'd	£1	41	432	−27	513	210
Ocean Tns. 'New'	Fly./pd.	39	128	−1	145	129

YESTERDAY—

Stock	Denomination	No. of marks	Closing price (p)	Change on day	1975/6 high	1975/6 low
ICI	£1	16	381	−3	387	118
Trust Hses. Forte	25p	15	126	−7	133	40
EMI	50p	13	241	−2	257	62
Burmah Oil	£1	12	47	—	100	27
GEC	25p	12	146	−2	162	51
Royal Ins.	25p	12	310	−10	342	106
"Bats"	25p	11	340	+1	377	164
Lonrho	25p	11	124	+8	159	68
Rank Org. 'A'	25p	11	144	−4	205	78
RTZ	25p	11	180	—	211	80
Shell Transport	25p	11	380	−2	404	118
Barclays Bank	£1	10	305	−1	350	112
De Beers Defd.	R0.05	10	270	—	335	161
Distillers	50p	9	143	−3	152	65½
Grand Met.	50p	9	80	−1	88	17½

The above list of active stocks is based on the number of bargains recorded yesterday in the Official list and under Rule 163(1) (c) and reproduced to-day in Stock Exchange dealings.

Option Report—3-month Call rates

OPTION DEALING DATES

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
Feb. 17	Mar. 1	May 13	May 25
Mar. 2	Mar. 15	May 27	Jun. 9
Mar. 16	Mar. 29	Jun. 10	Jun. 22

"Calls" were dealt in Burmah Oil, International Computers, BSG, Geo. Wimpey, Cavenham Warrants, National Westminster Bank Warrants, Boots, Rolls-Royce, Wingate, Lonrho, H. Goldman, Royco, London Brick, Gripperrods, Whessoe, Imperial Group, Reyrolle Parsons, House of Fraser, Triplex, S. Osborn, British Car Auction, Amalgamated Investment and MEPC. A "put" was done in Racal Electronics, while "doubles" were arranged in Burton "A," Premier Consolidated, Wingate, Dunlop, BSG and H. Goldman.

Industrials		Guardian	20	Spillers	8	Shell	25
A. P. Cement	15	G.K.N.	22	Tesco	5	Ultramar	20
Assoc. Leisure	5	Hawker Sidd.	35	Thorn "A"	20		
Barclays Bank	22	House of Fraser	8	Tube Invest.	27	Mines	
Beecham	28	I.C.I.	21	Unilever	40	Anglo Amer.	50
Boots Drug	12	"Imps"	7	Utd. Drapery	10	Charter Cons.	15
Bowaters	16	I.C.L.	14	Vickers	15	Chart'h'll Fin.	6
B.A.T.	30	Inveresk	7	Williams Hud'n	4	Cons. Gold	16
British Leyland	7	Legal & General	13	Woolworths	6	De Beers Def.	55
BOC Int.	8½	Ladbroke	11			F. S. Geduld	350
Burton 'A'	7	Lloyds Bank	22	Property		Great Boulder	12
Cadburys	6	"Lots"	8½	Amal. Inv.	3½	Hampton Areas	12
Courtaulds	11	"Mams"	6	Brit. Land	4½	Hampton Prop.	4
Debenhams	8	Marks & Spencer	10	Cap Counties	5½	Kloof	100
Distillers	15	Midland Bank	22	E.P.	8	Lonrho	12
Dunlop	7½	Nat'l West Bank	20	Land Securities	18	Loraine	55
Eagle Star	13	"Do" Warrants	10	MEPC	10	Poseidon	55
E.M.I.	17	P & O Dfd.	11	Peachey	4½	Pres. Steyn	200
Gen. Accident	16	Plessey	8	Town & City	3½	Rio T. Zinc	17
Gen. Electric	15	R.H.M.	6	Town & Comm.	4	Welkom	55
Glaxo	35	Rank Org. 'A'	16			West Areas	40
Grand Met	7	Reed Int'l	25	Oils		Western M'ng.	16
		Rothmans	4	Brit. Petroleum	40		
G.U.S. 'A'	17	Slater Walker	4½	Burmah Oil	7		

LOCAL AUTHORITY BOND TABLE

Authority (telephone number in parentheses)	Annual gross interest	Interest payable	Minimum sum	Life of bond
	%		£	Year
Hove (0273 775400)	11	½-year	1,000	2
Hove (0273 775400)	11½	½-year	1,000	3-5
Liverpool (051 227 3911)	11	½-year	500	3-4
Liverpool (051 227 3911)	12	½-year	500	5-7
Merthyr Tydfil (0685 3201)	11½	½-year	500	3-5
Merthyr Tydfil (0685 3201)	11⅝	½-year	5,000	3-5
Redbridge (01-478 3020)	11⅞	½-year	1,000	4-7
Wandsworth (01-874 6464)	12¼	½-year	5,000	5-7
Wandsworth (01-874 6464)	11½	½-year	1,000	5-7
West Yorkshire (0924 67111)	11	½-year	1,000	3-4
West Yorkshire (0924 67111)	11½	½-year	1,000	5-6

U.K. CONVERTIBLE STOCKS 20/2/76

Statistics provided by *data STREAM International*

Name and description	Size (£m.)	Current price	Terms*	Conversion dates	Flat yield	Red. yield	Premium† Current	Premium† Range‡	Income Equ.§	Income Conv.¶	Income Diff.♡	Cheap(+) Dear(−)◇ Current
Alcan Aluminium 9pc Cv. 89-94	12.00	75.00	100.0	76-80	12.2	12.7						
Associated Paper 9½pc Cv. 85-90	1.40	80.00	200.0	76-85	12.0	12.7	0.0	0 to 1	48.0	47.6	−0.4	−0.4
Bank of Ireland 10pc Cv. 91-96	10.25	140.00	35.7	77-90	7.1	5.9	13.0	10 to 12	45.7	58.4	10.2	−1.8
BPB 7½pc Cv. 89-94	4.89	106.00	62.0	72-80	7.5	7.4	13.2	10 to 13	21.3	26.4	5.4	−7.8
English Property 6½pc Cv. 98-03	19.16	145.00	234.0	76-80	4.5	3.7	−2.4	−39 to −2	29.8	20.1	−6.5	−4.1
English Property 12pc Cv. 00-05	15.40	120.00	150.0	76-84	10.2	10.2	26.0	−6 to 44	30.8	58.3	28.9	+2.9
Grand Metropolitan 10pc Cv. 91-96	125.50	102.00	120.2	73-78	10.2	10.2	3.5	−22 to 11	14.9	17.8	2.9	−0.6
Hanson Trust 6½pc Cv. 88-93	4.51	90.00	57.1	76-86	7.4	7.8	13.3	−35 to 19	30.4	35.8	6.8	−6.5
Hewden-Stuart 7pc Cv. 1995	0.72	150.00	280.0	75-95	4.7	3.5	17.7	5 to 18	55.8	45.3	−8.3	−26.0
Lyons, J. 7½pc Cv. 1981	3.60	83.00	22.7	75-81	8.7	11.3	146.8	103 to 157	11.6	24.9	39.5	−107.2
Slough Estates 10pc Cv. 87-90	5.50	137.00	125.0	78-87	7.4	5.7	27.4	19 to 38	26.3	55.3	26.9	−0.5
Tozer, Kemsley 8pc Cv. 1981	7.33	92.00	153.8	74-79	8.9	10.5	15.0	13 to 38	15.2	22.3	8.9	−6.2
Wilkinson Match 10pc Cv. 83-98	11.10	85.00	40.0	76-83	12.0	12.1	44.6	23 to 59	22.7	43.8	39.2	−5.3

* Number of Ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. † The extra cost of investment in convertible expressed as per cent. of the cost of the equity in the convertible stock. ‡ Three-month range. § Income on number of Ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is summed from present time until income on Ordinary shares is greater than income on £100 nominal of convertible or the final conversion date whichever is earlier. Income is assumed to grow at 5 per cent. per annum and is present valued at 15 per cent. per annum. ¶ Income on £100 of convertible. Income is summed until conversion and present valued at 15 per cent. per annum. ♡ This is income of the convertible less income of the underlying equity expressed as per cent. of the value of the underlying equity. ◇ The difference between the premium and income difference expressed as per cent. of the value of underlying equity. + is an indication of relative cheapness, − is an indication of relative dearness.

BUILDING SOCIETY RATES

	Dep	Share Accnts.	Subp'n Shares	Variable Term Shares
ey National	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	●8.00%
nce	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	‡‡7.75%
lia	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	‖7.75%
ingham Incorporated	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	—
lford and Bingley	6.75%	7.00%	§8.25%	—
tol and West	6.75%	7.00%	8.00%	—
tol Economic	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	†7.25%
annia	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	¶¶7.75%
liff	6.75%	7.50%	8.50%	—
lsea	6.75%	7.00%	9.00%	†7.25%
ltenham and Gloucester	6.75%	7.00%	—	‡7.75%
tens Regency	6.75%	7.25%	8.75%	—
of London	7.00%	7.50%	8.25%	—
and Metropolitan	6.75%	7.25%	7.50%	¶8.00%
ntry Economic	6.75%	7.00%	8.75%	§¶7.75%
yshire	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	□7.50%
way	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	¶7.75%
nwich	6.00%	7.10%	8.50%	—
rdian	6.75%	7.25%	7.50%	‡7.80%
fax	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	¶7.75%
ings and Thanet	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	—
rts of Oak & Enfield	6.75%	7.25%	8.50%	—
don	7.00%	7.30%	—	*8.05%
dersfield and Bradford	6.75%	7.00%	8.50%	♡7.75%
nington Spa	6.87%	7.12%	9.50%	7.50%
ls and Holbeck	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	—
ls Permanent	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	—
ester	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	††7.75%
rpool	6.75%	7.00%	8.80%	*7.50%
net & Planet	6.75%	7.00%	7.75%	♡7.75%
dington Permanent	6.45%	7.65%	—	—
onal Counties	7.00%	7.25%	8.25%	◇7.75%
onwide	6.75%	7.00%	7.50%	♣8.25%
castle Permanent	6.75%	**7.00%	7.75%	8.00%
thern Rock	6.75%	7.00%	8.00%	‡8.00%
th London	7.50%	8.00%	—	♣8.95%
wich	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	—
ley	6.75%	7.00%	7.50%	¶¶7.50%
perty Owners	6.75%	7.50%	8.50%	†7.85%
vincial	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	7.75%
pton	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	‡‡7.75%
sex Mutual	6.75%	◇7.30%	—	—
n and Country	6.50%	7.00%	10.00%	¶¶7.75%
lwich Equitable	6.75%	7.00%	8.25%	¶7.75%

nimum £2,000 6 mths. notice. † 3 mths. ‡ 3 yrs. § 3 yrs. increasing bonus. ¶ Min. £500 2 yrs. fixed. ‖ 4th issue 2 yrs. ● 2 yrs. £5,250. ** 7.50% over £5,000. †† 2-3 yrs. ‡‡ 3 yrs. §§ 7.50% ths. notice after 9 mths. ¶¶ 2 yrs. £1,000 min. ♡ Min. £100 2 fixed. ◇ Min. £1,000 6 mths. notice. ♣ 4 yrs. over £5,000. ,000 and over 7.55%. * Min. £1,000 3 mths. notice. □ Min. £5,000 3 mths. notice.

STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

Sentiment unsettled by projected spending cuts

Index 4.8 off at 391.9 and 13.6 down on the week

Account Dealing Dates
Option

*First Dealings	Declarations	Last Dealings	Account Day
Feb. 9	Feb. 19	Feb. 20	Mar. 2
Feb. 23	Mar. 4	Mar. 5	Mar. 16
Mar. 8	Mar. 18	Mar. 19	Mar. 30

* "New time" dealings may take place from 9.30 a.m. two business days earlier.

Thursday's satisfactory results from ICI failed to help sentiment yesterday as stock markets digested the Government's public expenditure White Paper. Fears about the heavy cost of servicing the National Debt adversely affected British Funds, while there was general disappointment about the extent of the projected cut-back in expenditure.

Long-dated issues bore the brunt of the setback in the Gilt-edged sector, where closing falls ranged to ¾. The Government Securities index fell 0.42 more to 62.81, for a two-day loss of 0.80. A weak lead from Gilts prompted selling of leading Industrials, which fell away quite sharply. However, bear closing and the appearance of a few institutional buyers late in the afternoon encouraged a modest rally, with the final tone being described as reasonably steady. Down 7.6 at its lowest of the day at 1 p.m., the FT 30-share index closed 4.8 down on balance at 391.9, making a loss of 13.6 on the week and one of 15.8 over the Account.

Long Gilts fall

Second-line stocks sustained a fairly widespread setback, with selected building issues particularly weakened by the proposed expenditure cut backs. Falls led rises by five-to-one in FT-quoted Industrials, while the FT-Actuaries All-Share Index fell 1.4 per cent. to 163.97, for a loss of 3.42 per cent. on the week. Average daily bargains of 6,295 were the lowest this year.

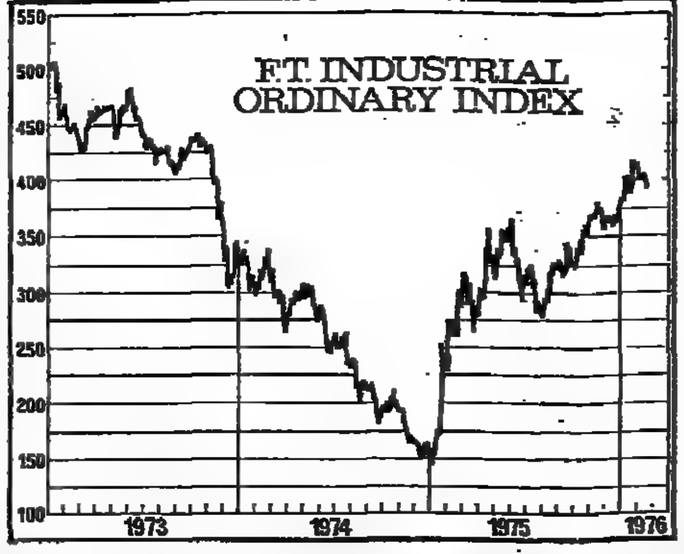
The unanimous conclusion that the debt interest burden could weigh on the long-dated British Funds proved so and quotations, after opening ¼ higher at the previous evening's enhanced levels, were soon routed. A fair amount of stock was around initially, but the pressure eventually eased and the heaviest losses were finally reduced from ¾ to ⅝. The day at the shorter end was very contrasting, with a slight preference to small improvements at the close; business on the whole was smaller. The U.K. Government offer and terms for becoming involved in the negotiations seeking a settlement of the Rhodesian constitutional dispute inspired fresh hope among Southern Rhodesian bonds; the 2½ per cent. 1965/70, issue recovered 7 points to £35 and other stocks performed similarly.

Further small sales originating from non-resident activities in South African Gold and other overseas shares weighed on the investment currency premium, which fell to 104¾ per cent. before rallying on end-week book-squaring operations to close a net point lower at 106¼ per cent. Yesterday's SE conversion factor was 0.6265 (0.6211).

Jessel Toynbee up

Concern about the group's substantial African interests continued to plague Standard Chartered, which fell 12 to 433p, making a decline on the week of 27p in Overseas issues. Business picked up a little in the big four Banks, but prices closed without much alteration. Ahead of their respective preliminary statements next Tuesday and Friday, National Westminster closed unaltered at 250p, after 248p, as did **Midland**, at 298p. Discounts were firmer in places following Press comment; **Jessel Toynbee** were particularly favoured at 82p, up 6, while **Allen Harvey and Ross** closed 10 higher at 480p and **Cater Ryder** 8 dearer at 278p.

Composite Insurances ended the account on a distinctly dull note.



"Royals" (results due March 1) lost 10 at 310p as did **Phoenix** at 212p.

Among dull Breweries, **Allied** cheapened a penny more to 67p on further consideration of the profits warning, making a fall in the week of 6½. Elsewhere, **Distillers** reacted 3 to 143p, but **Emu Wine**, 180p, were unmoved by news that Western Australian Worsted and Woollen Mills have now matched the 170p per share cash offer of Inchcape's.

The substantial cuts in both the roads and transport and housing programmes contained in the White Paper cast a cloud over the Building sector. **Tarmac** stood out at 168p, down 10, while **AP Cement**, 172p, and **Tunnel "B,"** 180p, lost 8 apiece. **Marchwiel** gave up 3 at 112p despite satisfactory results, while other casualties included **Tayler Woodrow**, 6 off at 288p, **R. Costain**, 5 cheaper at 218p, and **BPB Industries**, 7 easier at 146p.

ICI closed 3 off at 381p, after 379p, despite favourable Press comment on the results.

Stores closed slightly above the day's worst following a reasonable business; sentiment was affected by the Treasury's warning in the White Paper that the outlook for consumer spending is bleak. **Marks and Spencer** were finally 2 off at 100p, after 98p, while similar falls were sustained by **UDS** and **House of Fraser** at the common price of 92p. **"Gussies" "A"** reacted 3 to 208p following news of shop closures. Secondary issues sported a fair number of dull spots. **Knott Mill** were noteworthy for a fall of 3½ to 23½p.

There was a further small improvement in trade in the Electrical leaders, where initial losses were later trimmed. **GEC**, 146p, **EMI**, 241p, and **Reyrolle Parsons**, 118p, all finished just 2 easier, although **BICC** still showed a loss of 4 at 120p. Elsewhere, **Allied Insulators** failed to benefit further from the profits advance and came back 2½ to 29p on end-Account profit-taking. **Racal Electronics** lost 6 at 225p.

A partial late rally in Engineerings left **GKN** 4 down at 302p, after 298p, and **John Brown** only 1 off at 84p, after 81p, but **Tube Investments** were still 6 lower at 324p. The combination of disappointing first-half figures and uncertain prospects for the remainder of the year put **Neepsend** 8 lower to 46p, but in further response to the good results and proposed scrip issue, **Fife Forge** were raised 4 more to a basis of 50p. Press mention helped **D. F. Bevan** to rise 2 to 16p, while **F. S. Ratcliffe Industries** rallied after recent weakness to close 4 higher at 40p. Elsewhere, **British Northrop** gave up 5 at 90p and **Babcock and Wilcox** lost 3 to 72p. **CompAir** also shed 3 further to 74p, still reflecting the current order situation. **Weyburn** were quoted 7 cheaper at 488p.

Press comment directed attention to **Fox's Biscuits** in Foods, which moved up 4 to 86p in a thin market, while **Meat Trade Suppliers**, still on the interim report, hardened a penny further to 88p. **Associated Fisheries**, however, lost 2 more at 25p on the breakdown of diplomatic relations with Iceland. **FMC** continued a dull market, losing 4 more at 43p, after 40p, for a two-day fall of 9. Among the leaders, **Fitch Lovell** continued to attract a reasonable turnover and closed a penny better at 66p.

After Thursday's late rise of 3 in response to the preliminary figures, **Trust Houses Forte** reacted on light profit-taking to close 7 cheaper at 128p. **Ladbroke** were lowered 4½ to 104p. **Ritz Hotel (London)**, however, managed to close fractionally better at £7¼ despite the dividend omission and annual loss.

Unilever lower

Miscellaneous Industrial leaders closed a little above the day's worst with losses extending to 7, as in **Reckitt and Colman**, 335p. **Unilever** ended 6 cheaper at 432p, after 428p, leaving a reaction on the week of 14 ahead of the results, due March 2. **Beecham**, 348p and **Reed International**, 266p, were also 6 lower, while **Rank Organisation "A"** followed the full report with a decline of 4 at 144p. Elsewhere, **PMA** met demand and rose 6 at 60p. Favourable investment comment helped **Siebe Gorman** to harden 2 to 167p. **Alfred Clough**, however receded 20 to a 1975-76 low of 40p on small selling in a limited market, while **H. Goldman** lost 3 to 24p. Favourable Press mention failed to aid **LCP**, 63p, and the new nil-paid, 5p premium, which relinquished about 3 apiece.

BSG provided ag ood late spot in Motors and Distributors, rising 1½ to 21p with the help of call-option business.

Newspapers came easier, with both **News International**, 158p, and **Pearson Longman**, 116p, losing 4, while **Thomson** shed 8 at 240p. Losses among Paper/Printings were more marginal although **Chapman (Balham)** reacted 3 to 125p. Despite the second-half loss, **Olives Paper Mill** regained 2 to 23p. Elsewhere, **Lowe and Brydone** were lowered 7 to 42p.

Felixstowe Dock firm

The counter bid worth around 191p per share from **European Ferries** (2 down at 70½p) for **Felixstowe Dock** prompted dealers to open the latter sharply higher at 160p, but in slack trading the shares eased slightly to close 10 better on balance at 158p. Elsewhere in Shippings, **P & O Deferred** remained depressed by the downward revision of last June's profits forecast and fell away further to touch 96p before rallying to close unaltered on the day at 98p, but still down 15 on the week.

Akroyd and Smithers, at 233p, gave up 5 of the previous day's gain of 8 in Trusts and Financials, where **Lampa Securities** lost 3 more to 108p. **Northborough** shed 1½ to 7p on the annual report.

An uninspiring day in Oils ended with little net result after early easiness. **British Petroleum** eased to 577p before reverting to the overnight level of 583 and **Burmah** also ended unchanged at 47p, after 44p. **Shell** lost 2 to 380p, having been down to 376p initially, while **Ultramar**, despite a report of trading fears, finished unaltered at 172p. The early strength on Wall Street probably influenced the general late recovery.

A weak market of late on concern over the African situation, **Lonrho** lost further ground to 113p; however, the shares subsequently staged a good recovery, helped by buying for the new account, to finish 8 up the day at 124p. Elsewhere in Overseas Traders, **S. and W. Berisford** followed Thursday's AGM with a loss of 3 at 142p, while **South African Distilleries and Wines** ended 10 cheaper at 340p.

Properties softened further in thin trading, but tended to rally a shade near the close. Among the leaders, **Land Securities**, 178p, and **English Property**, 61½p, both finished 2 easier. Elsewhere, **Montague Burton Property** were an isolated firm spot on fresh speculative interest, ending 2 harder at a 1975-76 peak of 45p, but **Hammerson "A"** retreated 15 to 358p and **C. H. Beazer** lost 6 to 127p.

With the exception of **Caird (Dundee)**, which edged forward 2 more to 44p in a thin market, Textiles generally gave ground. **Courtaulds** shed 2 to 157p, after 155p, while ahead of their respective trading statements next Monday and Tuesday, **Bond Worth** eased a penny to 54p and **Nottingham Manufacturing** shed 3 to 66p.

Tobacco leaders closed narrowly mixed after a fairly good turnover.

Companies involved in the James Finlay/McLeod Russel reorganisation continued to give ground in Teas.

Rhodesian rally

African mining shares ended a highly unsettled week on a better note on following reports that the British Government is stepping up efforts to find a solution to the Rhodesian political situation.

In Rhodesians, **Wankie Colliery** jumped 8 to 38p, while **Coronation** and **Falcon** were both 5 higher at the common price of 110p.

De Beers, one of the previously worst affected issues, were steady at 270p, but still 15 down over the week. Among Coppers, **Messina** regained 15 to 250p and **Mangula (MTD)** gained 5 to 80p, reflecting their interests in Rhodesia.

Of the heavier-priced South African Financials, **GFSA** continued to attract sellers, falling ½ to £17½.

London-based Financials were barely changed. Platinums drifted on lack of interest.

South African Gold shares tended to firm in later dealings on U.S. buying following the higher afternoon gold fixing. The metal subsequently closed 75 cents better both on the day and the week at $131.75 per ounce.

The Gold Mines index put on 0.6 to 196.5 but was still 18.4 down on a week during which it has fallen to a 28-month low.

Australians were lower reflecting the fa[illegible] investment dollar premi[illegible] **Continental** fell 1 to £13[illegible] **Wallsend** gave up 15 to [illegible] the other hand, **Mount** [illegible] 10 to 99p on considerable pending offer of shares i[illegible]

Elsewhere, **Westfield** jumped 25 to 177p and [illegible] rose 10 to 420p on conti[illegible] hopes.

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

	Feb. 20	Feb. 19	Feb. 18	Feb. 17	Feb. 16	Feb. [illegible]
Government Secs.	62.81	63.23	63.51	63.62	63.40	63.4[illegible]
Fixed Interest	62.78	63.12	63.23	63.14	62.91	63.8[illegible]
Industrial Ordinary	391.9	396.7	397.3	403.5	400.2	405.[illegible]
Gold Mines	196.5	195.9	198.9	198.6	205.9	214.[illegible]
Ord. Div. Yield	5.33	5.27	5.25	5.19	5.2[illegible]	5.1
Earnings Y'ld % (full)	15.40	15.32	15.28	15.11	15.22	15.0
P/E Ratio (net) (*)	9.55	9.61	9.64	9.76	9.69	9.8
Dealings marked	6,510	6,757	5,750	6,180	7,240	6,9[illegible]
Equity turnover £m.	—	66.57	56.58	67.06	54.7[illegible]	57.0
Equity bargains total	—	15,432	14,961	15,105	15,540	14,36[illegible]

[illegible]

HIGHS AND LOWS

	1975/6 High	1975/6 Low	Since Compilation High	Since Compilation Low
Govt. Secs.	65.21 (30/1/76)	49.18 (3/1/75)	127.4 (9/1/35)	49.18 (3/1/75)
Fixed Int.	64.45 (2/2/76)	50.53 (3/1/75)	150.4 (28/11/47)	50.53 (3/1/75)
Ind. Ord.	417.4 (30/1/76)	146.0 (6/1/75)	546.6 (19/5/72)	49.4 (26/6/40)
Gold Mines	442.3 (22/5/75)	195.9 (19/2/76)	442.3 (22/6/75)	43.5 (26/10/71)

S.E. ACTIV[illegible]

[illegible]

BASE LENDI[NG] RATES

Allied Irish Banks Lt[illegible]
Anglo-Portuguese Ba[illegible]
Henry Ansbacher [illegible]
Banco de Bilbao [illegible]
Banco de Ja[illegible]
Bank of Cyprus [illegible]
Bank of N.S.W. [illegible]
Banque du Rhone S. [illegible]
Barclays Bank [illegible]
Barnett, Christie Ltd. [illegible]
Bremar Holdings Li[illegible]
Brit. Bank of Mid. Ea[illegible]
■ Brown Shipley [illegible]
Canada Permanent A[illegible]
Cayzer, Bowater Co. Lt[illegible]
Cedar Holdings [illegible]
■ Charterhouse Japhet [illegible]
C. E. Coates [illegible]
Consolidated Credits [illegible]
Co-operative Bank [illegible]
Corinthian Securities [illegible]
Credit Lyonnais [illegible]
G. R. Dawes [illegible]
Duboff Brothers [illegible]
Duncan Lawrie [illegible]
English Transcont. [illegible]
First London Secs. [illegible]
■ Antony Gibbs [illegible]
Goode Durrant Trust [illegible]
Greyhound Guaranty [illegible]
Grindlays Bank [illegible]
■ Guinness Mahon [illegible]
■ Hambros Bank [illegible]
Hawtin & Partners [illegible]
■ Hill, Samuel [illegible]
C. Hoare & Co. [illegible]
Julian S. Hodge [illegible]
Industrial Bank of Sc[illegible]
Keyser Ullman [illegible]
Knowsley & Co. Ltd. [illegible]
Lloyds Bank [illegible]
London & European [illegible]
London-Mercantile Corp [illegible]
Midland Bank [illegible]
■ Samuel Montagu [illegible]
■ Morgan Grenfell [illegible]
National Westminster [illegible]
Northern Comm. Tru[illegible]
Norwich General Tru[illegible]
Portman Guaranty [illegible]
P. S. Refson & Co. [illegible]
Rossminster Accept'c[illegible]
Schlesinger Limited [illegible]
E. S. Schwab [illegible]
Security Trust Co. L[illegible]
Shenley Trust [illegible]
Standard Chartered [illegible]
Thames Guaranty [illegible]
Trade Development B[illegible]
Twentieth Century B[illegible]
United Bank of Kuwa[illegible]
Whiteaway Laidlaw [illegible]
Williams & Glyn's [illegible]
Yorkshire Bank [illegible]

■ Members of the Accepting Houses Committee.
[illegible]

CORAL INDEX: Close 391-395

I.C. INDEX
GOLD 129[illegible]-131[illegible]

INSURANCE B[ASE] RATES

† Atlantic Assurance [illegible]
Cannon Assurance [illegible]
† Address shown under Insurance and Property Bond table.

GOLD MARKET

[illegible]

F.T.—ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, The Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

EQUITY GROUPS — GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS. Figures in parentheses show number of stocks per section.

	EQUITY GROUPS	Fri. Feb. 20 Index No.	Day's Change %	Est. Earnings Yield % (Max.) (Corp. Tax 52%)	Gross Div. Yield % (ACT at 35%)	Est. P/E Ratio (net) (Corp. Tax 52%)	Est. P/E Ratio (nil) (Corp. Tax 52%)	Thurs. Feb. 19 Index No.	Wed. Feb. 18 Index No.	Tuesday Feb. 17 Index No.	Monday Feb. 16 Index No.	Year ago (approx.) Index No.	1975/76 High	1975/76 Low	Since Compilation High	Since Compilation Low
1	CAPITAL GOODS (173)	146.28	−2.1	15.85	5.81	9.56	9.55	149.42	150.24	149.82	149.58	96.15	156.06 (30/1/76)	51.76 (6/1/75)	206.37 (4/5/72)	50.71 (13/12/74)
2	Building Materials (29)	138.49	−2.6	12.41	6.25	12.48	12.47	142.51	145.58	145.20	145.59	86.61	150.18 (16/1/76)	45.11 (6/1/75)	253.84 (2/5/72)	44.27 (11/12/74)
3	Contracting, Construction (23)	228.17	−1.8	15.55	4.29	10.17	10.17	232.38	235.45	235.92	236.46	166.17	263.64 (16/1/1)	74.74 (6/1/75)	389.33 (19/6/72)	71.48 (12/12/74)
4	Electricals (16)	255.52	−2.6	17.21	4.71	8.51	8.51	260.78	261.31	260.75	259.99	175.71	273.62 (3/2/76)	98.49 (2/1/75)	360.04 (4/5/72)	84.71 (25/6/62)
5	Engineering (Heavy) (13)	165.59	−2.5	19.77	7.14	8.23	8.23	169.33	170.16	170.55	170.07	115.97	181.38 (30/1/76)	64.39 (2/1/75)	202.57 (6/6/73)	64.39 (2/1/75)
6	Engineering (General) (63)	133.63	−1.6	16.62	6.55	9.02	9.01	135.82	136.49	135.54	134.97	81.54	138.56 (6/2/76)	46.43 (6/1/75)	168.59 (4/5/72)	45.43 (6/1/75)
7	Machine and Other Tools (9)	55.56	−1.1	15.20	6.74	11.86	11.86	56.19	56.57	56.64	56.64	33.75	57.39 (13/2/76)	20.11 (2/1/75)	136.70 (4/7/68)	19.96 (13/12/74)
8	Miscellaneous (25)	128.80	−0.8	16.12	6.52	9.48	9.42	129.84	130.76	130.49	130.37	86.20	133.69 (30/1/76)	49.65 (6/1/75)	177.41 (27/4/72)	49.65 (6/1/75)
9	CONSUMER GOODS (DURABLE) (56)	130.40	−1.6	14.23	4.79	10.60	10.59	132.46	133.12	133.01	132.35	67.19	134.33 (4/2/76)	38.39 (6/1/75)	227.78 (21/4/72)	38.39 (6/1/75)
10	Electronics, Radio TV etc. (15)	146.33	−2.3	13.04	3.65	11.47	11.46	149.77	150.45	149.64	149.18	79.97	152.60 (4/2/76)	44.28 (6/1/75)	287.41 (19/5/72)	42.65 (12/12/74)
11	Household Goods (14)	179.08	−0.2	15.62	6.16	10.70	10.67	179.42	179.50	179.83	179.44	109.43	182.85 (4/2/72)	64.55 (6/1/75)	263.22 (4/5/72)	63.92 (17/12/74)
12	Motors and Distributors (27)	77.60	−0.9	16.55	6.04	9.41	9.41	78.25	78.85	79.34	78.50	33.67	79.34 (17/2/76)	19.91 (6/1/75)	170.89 (15/1/69)	19.91 (6/1/75)
13	CONSUMER GOODS (NON-DURABLE) (168)	153.40	−1.5	13.67	5.74	10.84	10.74	155.67	157.01	157.27	156.95	109.69	162.94 (5/2/76)	61.98 (6/1/75)	226.08 (16/8/72)	61.41 (13/12/74)
14	Breweries (15)	164.39	−1.9	13.72	6.56	10.95	10.95	167.64	170.72	171.50	172.26	126.90	179.43 (2/2/76)	76.58 (6/1/75)	261.87 (28/11/72)	69.47 (13/12/74)
15	Wines and Spirits (7)	175.84	−2.0	10.53	5.74	14.41	14.41	179.41	180.46	181.02	181.02	128.03	185.67 (2/2/76)	80.42 (6/1/76)	257.40 (13/7/73)	78.81 (13/12/74)
16	Entertainment, Catering (16)	195.79	−1.8	11.37	6.25	14.07	13.45	199.39	201.85	201.19	201.42	104.86	208.60 (5/2/76)	55.28 (6/1/75)	329.99 (12/12/72)	54.87 (19/7/74)
17	Food Manufacturing (22)	162.69	−1.6	13.17	5.09	10.69	10.62	165.32	165.65	166.51	166.14	112.65	174.03 (4/2/76)	62.05 (2/1/75)	211.65 (1/5/72)	59.78 (11/12/74)
18	Food Retailing (16)	138.84	−0.5	11.65	4.99	12.45	12.45	139.47	139.61	139.57	138.67	107.06	185.85 (10/11)	57.15 (2/1/75)	235.08 (16/2/72)	54.25 (11/12/74)
19	Newspapers, Publishing (15)	177.82	−0.9	12.69	5.58	11.85	11.85	179.44	179.61	179.36	180.95	106.35	191.99 (6/2/76)	56.08 (6/1/75)	250.29 (18/1/72)	55.08 (6/1/75)
20	Packaging and Paper (13)	108.18	−0.9	20.44	7.06	7.28	7.39	109.13	108.93	108.50	107.68	78.46	111.44 (4/2/76)	43.46 (6/1/75)	135.69 (26/4/72)	43.46 (6/1/75)
21	Stores (33)	130.24	−1.6	11.51	5.19	13.34	13.32	132.54	133.66	133.44	132.93	97.37	136.24 (2/2/76)	52.63 (6/1/75)	204.39 (16/8/72)	52.63 (6/1/75)
22	Textiles (22)	170.67	−2.2	15.95	6.55	9.25	8.86	174.47	176.65	177.99	176.43	105.66	185.19 (30/1/76)	62.91 (6/1/75)	253.72 (17/8/68)	62.66 (11/12/74)
23	Tobaccos (3)	219.81	−0.7	20.01	6.45	7.60	7.60	221.31	224.28	224.59	224.06	168.96	236.32 (5/2/76)	109.92 (6/1/76)	339.16 (2/8/72)	94.34 (13/6/62)
24	Toys and Games (6)	64.64	−0.4	21.13	6.16	6.59	6.59	64.80	64.62	64.64	64.32	36.15	64.80 (19/2/76)	20.92 (6/1/75)	135.72 (16/1/70)	20.92 (6/1/75)
	OTHER GROUPS (94)															
25	Chemicals (24)	213.61	−1.3	13.15	4.49	10.64	10.64	216.32	215.55	215.55	213.87	128.63	219.92 (4/2/76)	73.14 (6/1/75)	219.92 (4/2/76)	71.20 (11/12/74)
26	Office Equipment (10)	86.60	−1.1	14.64	6.05	9.86	9.85	87.56	88.04	87.63	88.80	90.27	104.78 (17/4)	45.34 (2/1/75)	246.06 (1/8/72)	45.34 (2/1/75)
27	Shipping (12)	380.74	−0.7	18.98	6.50	6.74	6.48	383.59	388.11	400.60	398.03	299.47	432.64 (30/1/76)	194.38 (6/1/75)	517.00 (6/12/72)	90.80 (29/6/62)
28	Miscellaneous (48)	164.13	−1.5	14.36	6.44	10.26	10.25	166.56	167.39	167.02	166.92	108.97	172.75 (30/1/76)	60.39 (6/1/75)	258.83 (2/5/72)	60.39 (6/1/75)
29	INDUSTRIAL GROUP (496)	156.01	−1.6	14.31	5.60	10.29	10.23	158.49	159.38	159.45	159.02	105.38	164.06 (30/1/76)	59.19 (6/1/75)	220.17 (1/5/72)	59.01 (13/12/74)
30	OILS (4)	352.13	−0.3	15.16	4.85	7.37	6.60	352.99	353.03	353.90	351.34	203.94	351.71 (8/1/76)	105.83 (2/1/75)	431.66 (29/5/69)	87.23 (29/5/62)
31	500 SHARE INDEX	170.77	−1.4	14.44	5.48	9.72	9.46	173.16	173.99	174.12	173.52	113.75	178.83 (30/1/76)	65.49 (6/1/75)	227.95 (16/8/72)	63.49 (13/12/74)
32	FINANCIAL GROUP (100)	139.59	−1.7	—	5.08	—	—	141.96	142.53	143.93	142.08	103.92	153.46 (30/1/76)	56.50 (6/1/75)	241.41 (11/4/72)	55.88 (13/12/74)
33	Banks (6)	170.64	−0.2	16.29	4.76	9.45	9.46	170.99	170.67	172.44	171.08	111.79	192.16 (29/1/76)	62.56 (2/1/75)	288.32 (20/7/72)	62.44 (12/12/74)
34	Discount Houses (10)	180.60	−0.8	—	6.81	—	—	181.97	181.97	170.65	170.60	139.09	186.52 (13/1/76)	84.13 (6/1/75)	293.13 (2/7/72)	81.40 (10/12/74)
35	Hire Purchase (5)	121.47	−1.5	—	5.19	—	—	123.31	123.31	123.30	122.77	98.03	134.39 (10/3)	42.81 (6/1/75)	433.72 (4/5/72)	38.83 (11/12/74)
36	Insurance (Life) (9)	122.92	−1.6	—	6.66	—	—	124.94	124.96	125.23	125.04	92.52	139.46 (30/1/76)	44.88 (2/1/75)	194.46 (15/3/72)	44.88 (2/1/75)
37	Insurance (Composite) (7)	106.61	−2.9	—	6.43	—	—	109.82	110.54	110.59	109.43	73.26	123.90 (30/5)	44.47 (2/1/75)	155.76 (21/4/72)	43.96 (13/12/74)
38	Insurance (Brokers) (9)	220.04	−0.5	9.26	4.32	16.30	16.30	221.05	221.93	220.65	220.92	151.66	252.39 (18/11)	65.96 (7/1/75)	262.37 (12/12/72)	65.66 (16/12/74)
39	Merchant Banks (17)	88.54	−1.7	—	6.22	—	—	90.11	90.16	90.42	90.02	69.16	94.97 (7/4)	31.21 (7/1/75)	278.57 (1/5/72)	31.21 (7/1/75)
40	Property (32)	176.31	−2.9	2.60	2.74	75.55	68.30	181.52	184.26	184.16	183.76	172.66	241.22 (22/4)	88.19 (7/1/75)	357.40 (9/11/73)	56.01 (20/4/65)
41	Miscellaneous (5)	88.16	−0.3	14.57	6.16	10.76	10.76	88.46	88.46	88.32	88.32	50.59	91.98 (5/2/76)	34.78 (10/1/75)	303.13 (18/5/72)	33.29 (17/12/74)
42	Investment Trusts (50)	168.64	−1.2	2.98	4.28	33.55	33.53	170.67	172.08	172.21	173.13	132.50	184.50 [illegible]	73.43 (6/1/75)	[illegible]	[illegible]
43	ALL-SHARE INDEX (650)	162.97	−1.4	—	5.34	—	—	165.32	166.13	166.31	165.75	111.99	172.64 [illegible]	62.16 (6/1/75)	228.18 (1/5/72)	61.92 (13/12/74)
	COMMODITY GROUPS (Not included in 500 or All-Share indices)															
44	Rubbers (9)	448.70	—	14.28	7.49	10.75	10.72	448.87	451.69	459.52	463.66	394.61	525.43 (29/3)	281.66 [illegible]	555.37 (25/7/74)	84.66 (25/6/62)
45	Teas (9)	124.50	−0.6	34.42	8.32	4.25	4.17	125.28	125.56	125.77	125.95	84.98	126.91 (12/2/76)	76.76 (10/1/75)	126.91 (12/2/76)	69.72 (17/10/74)
46	Coppers (3)	242.11	+1.8	40.82	7.10	2.45	2.45	237.87	236.45	233.63	231.72	441.04	467.74 (27/3)	231.72 (16/2/76)	667.78 [illegible]	94.08 (29/4/62)
47	Mining Finance (11)	99.98	−0.7	11.82	5.05	9.56	9.56	100.55	99.94	99.76	102.78	111.10	141.34	90.66	175.90	66.31
48	Tins (8)	92.97	−0.9	13.56	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
49	Overseas Traders (13)	251.27	−0.5	14.50	4.44	8.94	8.93	252.36	252.32	253.72	254.32	173.40	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

	FIXED INTEREST	Friday Feb. 20 Index No.	Yield %	Thurs. Feb. 19	Wed. Feb. 18	Tues. Feb. 17	Monday Feb. 16	Friday Feb. 13	Thurs. Feb. 12	Wed. Feb. 11	Year ago (approx.)	1975/76 High	1975/76 Low	Since Compilation High	Since Compilation Low
1	Consols 2½% yield	—	13.85	13.66	13.86	13.85	13.86	13.53	13.81	13.61	14.89				
2	20-yr. Govt. Stocks (6)	50.49	[illegible]	51.01	51.47	51.49	51.31	51.46	50.62	51.15	47.21	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
3	20-yr. Red. Deb. & Loans (15)	50.75	[illegible]	50.80	50.83	50.87	50.84	51.03	51.00	[illegible]	45.62	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
4	Investment Trust Prefs. (15)	50.80	13.63	51.23	51.33	50.86	49.81	49.81	49.63	50.16	43.30	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
5	Coml. and Indl. Prefs. (20)	68.81	13.79	69.22	69.10	69.07	69.06	68.96	68.84	69.28	61.11	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible] † Redemption yield. FT-Actuaries indices are calculated by Exel Communications Limited (a member of the Exchange Telegraph Group) on an IBM 370 computer.

A new list of the constituents of the FT-Actuaries Share Indices is available from the Publishers, the Financial Times, Bracken House, Cannon Street, London, EC4P 4BY, price 13p, by post 20p. * Corrected.

MONEY + EXCHANGES

Fall in bill rate

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 9¾ per cent.
(since February 6, 1976)

The Treasury bill rate fell by 0.0534 per cent. at yesterday's tender to 8.8010 per cent. and Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate was unchanged at 9¾ per cent. The minimum accepted bid was £97.80, compared with £97.79 previously, and bids at that level were met as to about 29 per cent. The £400m. bills tendered and allotted attracted bids of £1,037.5m. and all bills offered were allotted. Next week a record £500m. will replace maturities of £400m.

Day-to-day credit was in short supply and the authorities bought a small amount of Treasury bills and Corporation bills from the Discount houses. Banks carried forward surplus balances, and an unexpected amount of Government disbursements exceeded revenue payments to the Exchequer. On the other hand there was a net market take-up of Treasury bills, and the usual Friday increase in the note circulation.

Discount houses paid 8¾-9 per cent. for secured call loans in the early part, and closing balances were found at 8½-9 per cent.

In the inter-bank market overnight loans opened at 8¾-9 per cent. and eased to 8½-8¾ per cent. before closing at 8½-9 per cent.

Rates in the table below are nominal in some cases.

Feb. 20 1976	Sterling Certificates of deposits	Interbank	Local Authority deposits*	Local Auth. negotiable bonds	Finance House deposits	Company deposits	Discount market deposits	Treasury Bills ♦	Eligible Bank Bills ♦	Fine trade Bills ♦
Overnight	—	8½-9	—	—	—	—	8½-9	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2 days notice	—	—	8⅝-8¾	—	—	—	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
†7 days or 7 days notice	—	8⅝-9	8¾-8⅞	—	—	—	8¾-9	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
One month	8⅞-8[illegible]	8[illegible]-8⅞	8⅝-8⅞	9½-9¼	8¾-9¼	—	8¾	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Two months	8[illegible]-8[illegible]	8[illegible]-8[illegible]	—	9½-9¼	8¾-9⅜	—	8½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Three months	9-8[illegible]	8[illegible]-8[illegible]	9-9⅛	9¼-9	8¾-9⅛	—	8½-8⅝	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Six months	9[illegible]-9[illegible]	9[illegible]-9[illegible]	9⅛-9¼	9¼-9	8¾-9¼	—	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nine months	9½-9⅜	9⅜-9½	—	10-9½	10	—	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
One year	9[illegible]-9[illegible]	9[illegible]-9[illegible]	10¼-10⅜	10½-9[illegible]	10-10½	—	—	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Two years	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

EXCHANGES AND BULLION

Sterling improved slightly against most other major currencies and showed little change in terms of the U.S. dollar. Its trade-weighted average depreciation since the Washington Currency Agreement, as calculated by the Bank of England, narrowed to 30.3 per cent. from 30.4 per cent. and stood at 30.4 per cent. at noon and in early dealings.

The pound opened at $2.0240-2.0250 against the dollar and fell to $2.0230-2.0240, before improving to $2.0240-2.0250, a gain of 5 points on the day.

The dollar also gained ground against other currencies in general, with its trade-weighted depreciation since the Washington Agreement, as calculated by Morgan Guaranty of New York on noon rates, narrowed to 2.68 per cent. from 2.76 per cent.

Foreign Exchange markets were very quiet, with the West German D-mark and the French franc finishing weaker against the dollar. The Italian lira continued to weaken, closing at L776½ in terms of the dollar, compared with L769½ previously. Its trade-weighted depreciation, on the Morgan Guaranty basis, widened to 4.58 per cent. from 43.57 per cent., a fall of 13.86 per cent. since the closure of the Italian foreign exchange market last month.

Gold rose $¾ to $131½-132½. The krugerrand finished at $134½-136½ (£66½-67½) in both the domestic and international markets. Its premium over the gold content was 3.85 per cent.

EXCHANGE CROSS-RATES

[illegible]

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES*

[illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

[illegible]

OTHER MARKETS

[illegible]

FORWARD RATES

[illegible]

SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHT RATES

[illegible]

Values are for currencies against the [illegible] Monetary Fund in Washington.

OVER 1/2 QUARTERLY [illegible] OFFER [illegible] FEBRUARY [illegible]

هكذا أصل النص

AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

REGIONAL MARKETS

SHEET METAL BUSINESS

ashire Sheet Metal business for sale. Contracts on for manufacture and installation of sheet metal ducting patent held for new combined water tank. Spacious ises which can either be leased or purchased. Write Box E.7457, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

OVER 11½%

(Current estimated annual gross yield).

PAID QUARTERLY

WSON HIGH YIELD FUND offers an above average income d quarterly. Units were first issued in June 1974 at 33.3p justed for subdivision) and have proved most attractive. Fund is still expanding rapidly and has already grown to r £7 million.

UR PORTFOLIO
High Yield Ordinary Shares.
Investment Trust Income Shares.
Preference Shares.
The preference shares vide both stability and an a high initial income while equity and income share tion (currently around 60% he fund) offers good ome growth prospects.

GROWTH POTENTIAL–
Our strategy is to select shares not only for high yield but also for possible future appreciation of capital and of income.
It is best to regard the fund as a long term investment and you should remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

LAWSON
HIGH YIELD FUND
FIXED PRICE OFFER UNTIL
FRIDAY 27th FEBRUARY 1976
COME UNITS 43.5p ACCUM. UNITS 50.5p
(OR THE DAILY PRICE IF LOWER)

The Managers reserve the right to close this offer at any time if the true e moves by more than 2½% from this fixed offer price. Telephoned Orders be accepted up to 5.00pm daily–ring 031-226 3911. A wider range trustee ily. A unit trust authorised by the Department of Trade. Units purchased by April 1976 will qualify for the quarterly payment to be made on the 15th 1976. A 5% initial charge is included in the price. An annual fee of ⅝% is cted from gross income. 1¼% commission is paid to agents. Trustee and istrar–Clydesdale Bank Ltd (member of the Midland Bank Group.) itors–Whinney Murray & Co Chartered Accountants. Managers–Lawson urities Ltd. 63 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2JG. istered in Edinburgh 55135. Directors: J Nelmes Crocker, CFY Lawson, CA Dickson, WS. JRL Cuningham, MA. SC Lawson. ng an offer units may be bought or sold daily–otherwise weekly on Fridays.

Lawson Securities Ltd, 63 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2JG
031-226 3911 24 hour answerfone service.
available to residents of the Republic of Ireland).
e enclose a remittance payable to Lawson Securities Ltd £
e invested in Lawson High Yield Fund units to the value of
holding £100, units will be allocated to the nearest whole number)
If you would rather have accumulation units place 'X' in box
Share Exchange and Savings plan mark box for details.
I declare that I am/we are not resident outside the scheduled territories and I am/we not acquiring the units as the nominee(s) of any person(s) resident outside those tories. (Those unable to make this declaration should apply through their Bank, Stockbroker or Solicitor in the UK).

signature 1 signature 2
(in case of joint applicants all must sign and attach full names and addresses).
Names in full (Mr/Mrs/Miss)
Address WY6ZFT212

INSURANCE, PROPERTY, BONDS

OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS FUNDS

30, Gresham Street, EC2. 01-600 4555

Conv. Bd. Feb. 19	$US8.88	+0.02	—
Engy. Int. Feb. 19	$US13.40	+0.06	—
Gr.St.$Fd. Jan. 30	$US7.21	......	—

Warburg Invest. Mngt. Jrsy. Ltd.

1 Charing Cross, St. Helier, Jsy. CI. 0534 29041

CMF Ltd. Jan. 29	$US9.65	10.72	......	—
CMT Ltd. Jan. 29	£10.52	10.79	......	—
Metals Tst. Feb. 19	£9.72	9.96	+0.17	—
TMT Feb. 12	$US11.04	11.33	......	—
TMT Ltd. Feb. 12	£11.34	11.63	......	—

World Wide Growth Management♦

10a, Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg.

Wrld. Wide Gth. Fd.	$US12.18	+0.07	—

NOTES

Prices do not include $ premium, where applicable, and are in pence unless otherwise indicated. Yields % (shown in last column) allow for all buying expenses. a Offered prices include all expenses. b Today's prices. c Yield based on offer price. d Estimated. g Today's opening price. h Distribution free of U.K. taxes. x Offered price includes all expenses except agent's commission. y Offered price includes all expenses if bought through managers. z Previous day's price. ♥ Net of tax on realised capital gains unless indicated by ♦. ¶ Guernsey yield. # Suspended. ★ Single premium insurance bonds.

FT SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE

**BRITISH FUNDS

1975/6 High	Low	Stock	£	+ or −	Yield Int.	Red.
		"Shorts" (Lives up to Five Years)				
98⅞	92	Treasury 6½pc 1976‡‡	98⅞	+⅛	6.57	8.91
99	97	Victory 4pc 1976‡‡	98⅝xd	.....	4.04	—
102	96⅞	Treasury 10½pc 1976‡‡	101⅛	−⅛	10.38	8.92
97⅝	88⅞	Treasury 6¼pc 1977‡‡	97⅝xd	+⅛	6.40	8.69
97¼	86¼	Electric 3pc 74-77	97¼xd	.....	3.08	5.72
103	96⅞	Treasury 11½pc '77‡‡	102¼xd	−⅛	11.20	9.60
94	84	Treasury 3pc '77‡‡	93¼	−⅛	3.22	7.20
93⅞	84⅜	Transport 4pc '72-77	93¼	−⅛	4.29	8.03
98	90½	Treasury 9pc 1978‡‡	98xd	+⅛	9.12	9.74
101	96	Treasury 10½pc '78‡‡	101	−⅛	10.39	9.97
92½	79	Exchequer 5pc '76-78‡‡	92xd	.....	5.43	8.51
103⅜	94	Treasury 11½pc '79‡‡	103xd	+⅛	11.14	10.26
87	71⅜	Treasury 3pc '79‡‡	87xd	.....	3.45	7.20
87⅞	73⅞	Electric 3½pc 74-79	87½xd	−⅛	4.85	8.35
100	94½	Treasury 10½pc '79‡‡	99½	+⅛	10.55	10.64
99	95	Do. 10½ 1979 'A'	99½	+⅛	10.55	10.64
86⅝	71	Electric 3½pc '76-79	86⅛	−⅛	4.06	7.86
96	84	Treasury 9pc 1980‡‡	96xd	+⅛	9.37	10.24
95	89¼	Treasury 9½pc '80‡‡	95⅝	.....	9.93	10.80
95	92⅛	Treasury 9½pc 1980 'A'	95⅝	.....	9.93	10.81
86	68¼	Treasury 3½pc '77-80	85⅛	+⅛	4.11	7.60
87⅝	71	Funding 5¼pc '78-80‡‡	86	−⅛	6.10	9.25
103	94	Treasury 11½pc 1981	102⅝	.....	11.20	10.77
		Five to Fifteen Years				
86	66⅛	Treasury 3½pc '79-81	84	−⅛	4.17	7.39
92	72⅝	Do 8¼pc '80-82‡‡	91⅜	−⅛	9.40	10.71
107¼	86⅝	Treasury 12pc 1983‡‡	101½xd	−¼	11.73	11.53
79⅞	58	Funding 5½pc '82-84‡‡	78⅝	−¼	7.05	9.51
86⅛	61⅜	Treasury 8½pc '84-86‡‡	85⅛	−⅛	10.11	11.12
74⅞	51⅞	Funding 6½pc '85-87‡‡	73⅛	−⅛	9.15	11.06
77⅛	53	Treasury 7¾pc '85-88‡‡	74⅞	−⅜	10.43	11.82
51¼	32⅞	Transport 3pc '78-88	49	−⅛	6.12	10.53
59¾	39¼	Treasury 5pc '86-89	57	−½	9.86	11.61
102	96	Treasury 13pc 1990‡‡	98⅞	−⅝	13.33	13.38
75⅞	53¼	Treasury 8¼ 87-90‡‡	73⅛	−½	11.53	12.57
		Over Fifteen Years				
60	41⅜	Funding 5¾pc '87-91‡‡	57½	−½	10.40	12.34

††BANKS AND HIRE PURCHASE

1975/6 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Y'ld Gr's	P/E
250	135	Alexanders D. £1	230	−2	11.67	—	7.8	—
£114	£67	Algemene Fl.100	£107	.....	Qh20%	1.8	3.3	16.6
480	190	Allen Harvey £1	480	+10	†13.5	—	4.3	—
142	45	Allied Irish	117	−1	Q25%	—	5.3	—
77	34	Anglo Contnl	50	.....	—	—	—	20.1
195	95	Arbuthnot L. £1	192xd	.....	†7.61	—	6.1	—
445	170	Aust. & N.Z. £1	398	−2	9.7	—	3.8	—
£57	£21¼	BankAmer. $1.125	£37⅝	.....	Q$1.56	—	2.0	—
40	22½	Bk. Hapoalim I£1	31	.....	Q12½%	—	2.8	—
385	120	Bk. Ireland £1	350	.....	Qh16%	—	4.6	—
£151	£66	Do. 10pc Cv. 91-96	£141	−1	Q10%	—	†7.3	—
23	16½	Bk. Leumi AI£1	22	.....	Q16%	—	6.4	—
230	180	Bk. Leumi (UK) £1	220	.....	7.25	—	5.1	—
720	370	Bk. N.S.W. $A2	640	−15	Q28c	—	2.5	—
325	104	Bank Scotland £1	300	−2	†8.31	3.5	4.3	10.2
£71¼	£20⅝	Bankers N.Y. $10	£26⅝	.....	Q$3.00	—	5.4	—
350	112	Barclays £1	305	−1	†8.29	4.2	4.2	8.8
73	19	Bates (Edward)	42	.....	—	—	—	—
235	75	Brown Shipley £1	175	.....	c7.54	—	6.6	—
292	110	Cater Ryder £1	278	+8	14.40	—	8.0	—
—	—	Cedar Hldgs. 20p	13#	.....	B—	—	—	—
75	48	Clive Dis'nt 20p	71	−1	†3.4	—	7.4	—

[illegible]

Hire Purchase, etc.

[illegible]

BEERS, WINES AND SPIRITS

[illegible]

BUILDING INDUSTRY, TIMBER & ROADS

[illegible]

BUILDING INDUSTRY—Continued

[illegible]

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

[illegible]

CINEMAS, THEATRES AND TV

[illegible]

DRAPERY AND STORES

[illegible]

DRAPERY AND STORES—Continued

[illegible]

ELECTRICAL AND RADIO

[illegible]

ENGINEERING, MACHINE TOOLS

[illegible]

ENGINEERING—Continued

[illegible]

FOOD, GROCERIES, ETC.

[illegible]

HOTELS & CATERERS

[illegible]

HOTELS—Continued

[illegible]

INDUSTRIALS (Miscel.)

[illegible]

**INTERNATIONAL BANK

[illegible]

**CORPORATION LOANS

[illegible]

COMMONWEALTH & AFRICAN LOANS

[illegible]

LOANS (Miscel.)

[illegible]

FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS

[illegible]

U.S. $ DM Prices exclude inv. $ premium

AMERICANS

[illegible]

S.E. List Premium 59⅝% (based on $2.0238 per £)

CANADIANS

[illegible]

S.E. List Premium 59⅝% (based on $2.0079 per £)
Conversion factor 0.6265 (0.6211)

تعذر اصل الأصل

هكذا صص الأصل

INDUSTRIALS—Continued

††INSURANCE

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT TRADES

Motors and Cycles

Commercial Vehicles

Components

Garages and Distributors

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING

PROPERTY

PROPERTY—Continued

SHIPBUILDERS, REPAIRERS

SHIPPING

SHOES AND LEATHER

SOUTH AFRICANS

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

TRUSTS, FINANCE, LAND

Investment Trusts

TRUSTS—Continued

Trusts, Finance, Land, etc.

OILS

OVERSEAS TRADERS

RUBBERS AND SISALS

TEAS

India and Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

Africa

MINES

CENTRAL RAND

EASTERN RAND

FAR WEST RAND

O.F.S.

FINANCE

DIAMOND AND PLATINUM

CENTRAL AFRICAN

AUSTRALIAN

TINS

COPPER

MISCELLANEOUS

High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	C'vr	Y'ld Gr's
10	3	Burma Mine 17½p	9	......	m0.5	—	1.5
65	17	Charterhall 5p	28½	−3	—	—	—
880	360	Cons. Murch. 10c	740	+20	Q80c	ϕ	6.0
53½	29½	Laurasia	39½	+1	—	—	—
470	200	Northgate C$1	420	+10	tQ25c	1.0	3.3
211	80	R.T.Z.	186	......	g5.51	4.4	4.6
135	47½	Sabina Inds. C$1	100	−4	—	—	—
81	45	Stanford Mines$	45	......	—	—	—
£12½	874	Tara Expltn. $1	£11⅛	......	—	—	—
118	38	Yukon Cons. C$1	117	......	—	—	—

NOTES

Unless otherwise indicated, prices and net dividends are in pence and denominations are 25p. Estimated price/earnings ratios and covers are based on latest annual reports and accounts and, where possible, are updated on half-yearly figures; they are adjusted to ACT of 35 per cent. P/Es are calculated on the basis of net distribution; bracketed figures indicate 10 per cent. or more difference if calculated on "nil" distribution. Covers are based on "maximum" distribution. Yields, assuming maintenance of net dividends on current rate of ACT, are based on middle prices, are gross and allow for value of declared distributions and rights. Securities with denominations other than sterling are quoted inclusive of the investment dollar premium.

- Δ Sterling denominated securities which include investment dollar premium.
- ● "Tap" Stock.
- * Highs and Lows marked thus have been adjusted to allow for rights issues for cash.
- † Interim since increased or resumed.
- ‡ Interim since reduced, passed or deferred.
- ‡‡ Tax-free to non-residents
- ϕ Figures or report awaited
- †† Banks and Insurance reserve allocations may preclude calculation of dividend cover
- # Price at time of suspension
- ¶ Indicated dividend after pending scrip and or rights issue: cover relates to previous dividend or forecast.
- ** Free of Stamp Duty
- ♦ Merger bid or reorganisation in progress.
- ϕ Not comparable.
- ♦ Same interim: reduced final and or reduced earnings indicated.
- § Based on 1973 profits
- ‡ Cover allows for conversion of shares not now ranking for dividends or ranking only for restricted dividend.
- ☆ Cover does not allow for shares which may also rank for dividend at a future date. No P/E ratio usually provided.
- ▼ Excluding a final dividend declaration.
- ✢ Regional price.
- ‖ No par value.

a Tax free. b Figures based on prospectus or other official estimate. c Cents. d Dividend rate paid or payable on part of capital; cover based on dividend on full capital. e Redemption yield. f Flat yield. g Assumed dividend and yield. h Assumed dividend and yield after scrip issue. j Payment from capital sources. k Kenya. m Interim higher than previous total. q Earnings based on preliminary figures. r Australian currency. s Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. t Indicated dividend: cover relates to previous dividend, P/E ratio based on latest annual earnings. u Forecast dividend: cover based on previous year's earnings. v Tax free up to 30p in the £. w Yield allows for currency clause. y Dividend and yield based on merger terms. z Dividend and yield include a special payment: Cover does not apply to special payment.
A Net dividend and yield. B Preference dividend passed or deferred. C Canadian. E Issue price. G Assumed dividend and yield after pending scrip and or rights issue. M Figures based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1976. N Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1976. Q Gross. T Figures assumed. U No significant Corporation Tax payable. Z Dividend total to date.

Abbreviations: xd ex dividend, xc ex scrip issue, xr ex rights; xa ex all; xd ex capital distribution.

"Recent Issues" and "Rights" Page 15

This service is available to every Company dealt in on Stock Exchanges throughout the United Kingdom for a fee of £325 per annum for each security

City Offices
Hampton & Sons
01-236 7831

FINANCIAL TIMES
Saturday February 21 1976

ARBUTHNOT SECURITIES LIMITED
The complete unit trust group
Prices-see page 21
Arbuthnot Latham & Co Ltd

MAN OF THE WEEK

Great leap down

ALTHOUGH reports from Hong Kong say that he is still handling State affairs, vice-premier Teng Hsiao-ping, who until he was by-passed two weeks ago seemed ear-marked as China's next premier after the death of Chou En-lai, is right at the centre of a political storm.

Small but immensely tough despite his 71 years, Teng is a veteran of the Long March and has held senior posts in Peking almost since the Communists took over.

He was attacked in the Cultural Revolution, chairman Mao Tse-tung's campaign of the late 60s to purify the Communist Party, because he favoured economic concessions to peasants and workers. When he re-emerged in 1973, he climbed swiftly again to become in effect No. 3 in the leadership.

Closed doors

The present battle is over who shall succeed to power once both the giant figures of Mao and Chou are gone. With Chou now dead, the intrigue, and the manoeuvring for position seem to grow more intense every day. The poster campaign and the regular attacks in the Peking Peoples' Daily are the outward sign of a ferment of political activity behind closed doors.

The timing of the attacks and the organised busloads of visitors viewing the posters suggests that it is a calculated attempt by some in the leadership to drive out their rivals while Mao is still around to give them his authority.

The leadership has been split into radicals and pragmatists for 20 years over how far ideology should be sacrificed to economic progress.

Leading part

Mao made the dispute more contentious by drastically demonstrating (in the Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution) that supposed short cuts to a more egalitarian society could be disastrous. Teng played a leading part in organising the recovery from the Great Leap in the early 60s, but it merely earned him Mao's distrust.

After the Cultural Revolution and the 1971 shock of the attempted coup by Mao's designated heir, Lin Piao, Mao and Premier Chou seemingly tried to produce a compromise, pressing for economic growth but also pruning bureaucracy and privilege. The need for competent administrators and the power vacuum at the top left by the removal of Lin's adherents brought back numerous veteran officials of whom Teng was the most senior. But the Cultural Revolution had shown how Mao's idealism and a poster campaign could bring down political rivals in a battle ending up, not as an ideological dispute, but a struggle for more power.

How active?

While the present campaign looks like just such a Stratagem by the radical side, outside ignorance of how far the ailing and elderly Mao is active in politics and of the alignment of the newcomers to the Chinese leadership since 1971, makes it difficult to identify the mastermind.

Mme Mao and Yao Wen-yuan, leading radicals of the Cultural Revolution, have access to the media and the universities. The Shanghai leaders now posted to Peking (who include Yao and, more important, vice-premier Chang Chun-Chiao) can still exert considerable power in their home base to promote the poster campaign. But they must at least have Mao's permission for the onslaught and if they intend to press him to replace Teng, it is far from clear at this stage who would get the job. The obvious radicals do not look like national leaders.

The most likely beneficiary seems Vice-Premier Chang. But his views are apparently less radical than the others', and his administrative background suggests they might be tempered with pragmatism.

COLINA MACDOUGALL

Coal and electricity leaders worried by low gas prices

BY ROY HODSON AND ROY ROGERS

THE INITIATIVE by Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, the Energy Secretary, to encourage greater use of coal in power stations already seems likely to rebound on him by provoking a critical new study of the coal industry and the £1.4bn. Plan for Coal designed to expand production.

At Mr. Benn's first energy conference yesterday the electricity industry indicated that it will not be able to take sufficient extra coal to check coal stocks from reaching embarrassingly high levels.

Another issue brought into the open by the conference is that many people concerned with energy policy are now "gunning for gas," believing that natural gas supplies are too cheap and should be taxed. The gas industry is to be invited to further talks.

Mr. Benn convened and chaired the tripartite conference between the Government, the electricity and coal industries, and associated trades union leaders.

A working party was set up to produce papers on coal's import and export problems, the possibilities of converting power stations from other types of fuel to coal, the problem of ordering power stations and how it should be tackled given their long construction periods, and the special coal and power problems of Scotland and Wales.

Mr. Benn afterwards gave a short description of the conference proceedings and promised the full transcript would be made available. He hailed the event as "a modest but pleasing start to approach energy problems in a broader way."

Enlivened

The meeting was enlived by Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, and Mr. Arthur Hawkins, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, speaking out on the alleged shotcomings of each other's industries. They warmed to their themes later, when they carried on the debate at a joint Press conference.

Mr. Hawkins went along with the original object of the conference to the extent of conceding that he could "slightly" increase the amount of coal burned in Britain's power stations next year. He will also cut coal imports "to a trickle." But he dismissed Sir Derek Ezra's proposals that several oil- and gas-fired power stations be converted so as to burn an extra 11m. tons of coal during the next two years.

The CEGB had all the coal-burning capacity it needed he said. This was no time to be thinking of spending public money making unnecessary conversions to power stations.

SIR DEREK EZRA had a lively debate with Mr. Arthur Hawkins.

Mr. Hawkins said the CEGB had adopted flexible planning and it was up to the National Coal Board to avoid being rigid about its long-term plans. The NCB could not afford to be precise about long-term expansion when there was a world energy glut.

Both chairmen were expressing policies that had been agreed with their industry's trade unions. Many union leaders present also made individual contributions to the discussion.

These included a warning from Mr. Frank Chapple, general secretary of the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union and chairman of the TUC fuel and power committee, on the need to maintain a flexible power industry and not allow customers to be placed at the mercy of the Arabs "or any other group"—an indication that he was against too much dependence being placed on coal.

The extent to which natural gas is making inroads against coal and electricity in heating and cooking was raised several times.

Mr. Benn is asking the British Gas Corporation to attend the next meeting. It is clear that gas will then be put on trial by the other energy industries. The coal and electricity industries are agreed that gas should be taxed.

Future session

Mr. Hawkins said: "The Government could use the tax, which could amount to several hundreds of millions of pounds a year, to create job opportunities or to help poor people pay their fuel bills."

Mr. Benn has promised to consider inviting representatives of the power generating and supply equipment industries to a future session of what looks like becoming a standing conference on British energy policy.

Further details, Page 9

All Nippon may cancel option to buy three Tri-Stars

BY CHARLES SMITH TOKYO, Feb. 20.

ALL NIPPON AIRWAYS may cancel an option for three Lockheed TriStar air-buses, worth altogether some $60m., and buy short-haul Boeing 747 SRs instead if the controversy over the Lockheed payments proves to have damaged the TriStar's image in Japan too seriously.

Confirming this here to-day, ANA said the airline would still take delivery of two aircraft due to be handed over by Lockheed in March and June, plus another two due for delivery in 1977.

The airline's management has also said that if a decision were made to switch away from TriStars ANA would specify the fitting of Rolls-Royce RB-211 engines on its 747s so that whichever way the decision goes ANA is likely to remain a customer for Rolls-Royce.

ANA's decision in 1972 to buy Lorkheed TriStars with RB-211 engines played a vital part in enabling both Rolls-Royce and Lockheed to remain solvent.

The row over the TriStar, which began after Lockheed revealed that it had paid more than $7m. to a "secret agent" to promote aircraft sales in Japan, was originally expected to damage sales prospects for Rolls-Royce as well as Lockheed's, but it now looks as if that may not be the case.

So far ANA has taken delivery of 14 TriStars, but it would have a fleet of 21 if it took up all outstanding options in addition to the remaining four aircraft on which it has firm orders.

The airline had planned to study traffic conditions in Japan and to await the outcome of a Court case involving landing frequencies at Osaka Airport before deciding whether it would need all 21 aircraft.

Spotless record

The chances have now been tilted against taking the full number. But the airline says it may still do so, and might possibly even increase its TriStar fleet beyond 21 if the aircraft continues to attract passengers despite the Lockheed affair.

The TriStar has a spotless safety record in Japan and has been popular with air passengers. There is no doubt that ANA is exceedingly worried about what it calls the "image-down" problem expected to be created by the pay-off scandal.

The airline says it will take no immediate decision on the TriStar cancellations but will wait until Lockheed has recovered sufficiently from its present crisis to be able to field a high-level team for talks on the aircraft's future.

Cancellations of the three options would make ANA liable to penalty payments, but these are said to be fairly modest.

Michael Donne writes: So far, apart from the Lockheed TriStars, the RB-211 engine has been designated for the long-range Boeing 747s for British Airways, in the more powerful Dash 524 version of up to 50,000 lbs of thrust.

Boeing and Rolls-Royce, however, are offering the RB-211 in all its versions for all types of 747, and there is thus no reason why the engine cannot be fitted into the SR (Short-Range) model to meet All Nippon Airways' needs, and in such other variants as the SP (Special Performance) 747.

Rolls-Royce is actively promoting new outlets for the RB-211, and among these is the installation of the engine in the long-range version of the McDonnell Douglas DC-10, which is now also on offer to British Airways.

European Ferries improves its Felixstowe Docks bid

BY ARTHUR SMITH

THE BATTLE for control of Felixstowe Docks took a surprise turn last night with the announcement that the directors are to reconsider a bid from European Ferries.

The Board said the reported terms of the £6.8m. bid from European Ferries appeared to contain "significant differences" from the conditional terms rejected by Felixstowe Dock last week. The details would be examined by the Board once the offer had been sent to shareholders.

The Felixstowe directors, who successfully urged shareholders to accept a £5.24m. bid from the State-owned British Transport Docks Board, are now in an embarrassing position.

A Private Bill is going through Parliament to vest control with the BTDBat a purchase price of 150p a share. After bidding slightly over this figure, European Ferries has now come out with a revised share and cash offer worth about 196p a share.

The companyis offering a five-for-two in shares, plus an extra 15p cash should the Private Bill fail to gain Royal Assent.

European Ferries obviously hopes to mobilise public opinion so that the Bill is withdrawn or defeated. The company is also seeking an extraordinary general meeting on the basis that not all the Commons standing orders have been complied with. Militant shareholders are also trying to mobilise sufficient support for such a meeting.

Felixstowe directors refused last night to add to their non-committal public statement. The problem they face is that, even if they considered the new offer preferable, they are committed by the decision to help BTDB in getting the necessary legislation through Parliament.

One way out of the dilemma might be for the Board to take a completely neutral stance, but no decisions have been taken along these lines.

Shareholders are at liberty to sell their shares to European Ferries regardless of the decision taken by an extra-ordinary general meeting. However, the attitude that the Felixstowe Board, and particularly its 84-year-old chairman, Mr. H. Gordon Parker, adopts towards the counterbid will be crucial to the ease of the Bill's passage through Parliament.

It seemsu nlikely that BTDB could improve its original offer without dropping the Bill, and entering into an auction with European Ferries.

While European Ferries' chances of success, which at first seemed remote, are improving, the Government may have the last word. The Labour Party has long been committed to nationalisation of the ports, and Felixstowe is the prime target.

Continued from Page 1

Smith wants U.K. to join talks

enough to cause white Rhodesians serious problems.

This point is also believed to have been made to Mr. Smith by South Africa, though there is some doubt about how hard it has been pressed.

Mr. Callaghan is remaining in close touch with neighbouring African countries, including South Africa, as well as with Mr. Nkomo and other leaders of the divided ANC.

● Tony Hawkins writes from Salisbury: Mr. Smith's announcement in Parliament yesterday was received in silence by his supporters. There was no applause from Government members at the end of the speech.

Two years ago Mr. Smith told the British Government to "Get off our backs," and last year it was made clear that British participation in the talks with the African Nationalists was unacceptable. Consequently his statement does represent a change of heart on the Rhodesian Prime Ministers part.

Leaders of the two factions of the ANC reacted cautiously. Mr. Josiah Chinamano, deputy leader of the Nkomo group, welcomed U.K. intervention provided it was aimed at ensuring transfer of power from the minority to the majority.

But if Britain's motive was to protect her "kith and kin" in the face of a Russian and Cuban threat then Britain might be opposed to such a transfer of power.

Dr. Gabellah, vice-president of Bishop Muzorew's ANC faction, which opposes the talks with Mr. Smith, said the Smith statement appeared to represent a change of heart.

£25m. aid expected for paper industry

BY LORNE BARLING

THE GOVERNMENT is expected to provide up to £25m. for investment in the U.K. paper industry, following its inclusion in the group of 32 sectors considered to require special attention under the new industrial strategy.

Mr. Gerald Kaufman, Minister of State at the Department of Industry, said in an unexpected announcement yesterday that the money would be made available under the Industry Act for investment in equipment which would promote the use of domestic raw materials.

It is understood that companies concerned will be able to claim around 25 per cent. of capital expenditure on this equipment. If there is a full response to the offer this could amount to £80m. in new investment.

The industry, which has suffered severe cutbacks in the recession, needs to invest heavily in this type of machinery if it is to compete with increasingly efficient foreign producers which have already made deep inroads into domestic markets.

Welcomed

The scheme, which has yet to be agreed by the industry and the European Economic Community, was yesterday welcomed by those involved, who pointed out that the industry has in the past received no direct assistance from government.

The assistance is planned under three sections. The first will be £10m. in grants contributing to new plant which will use indigenous raw material, either waste paper or U.K.-produced wood fibre. A further £10m. would be provided for working capital and stocks in combination with the new plant.

The third provision of £3m. is for innovatory schemes in the use of waste paper, such as new de-inking methods. (Two earlier de-inking schemes received support from the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation.) It is believed that plans for funding a waste paper stock support scheme have now been dropped.

Impetus

The percentage of Government assistance in various types of projects has yet to be agreed, but it is envisaged that about 15 per cent. may be made available for waste storage buildings, giving some impetus to the already depressed waste paper market.

Although the Government has made it clear that there will be no long-term conditions attached to the aid, it is clear that there will be careful vetting of how the money is spent, particularly in respect of balance of payments saving.

The Department of Industry has put its proposals to the country's major paper companies, which have responded favourably, but many minor aspects have yet to be agreed.

The effect of this aid on EEC industry, and any distortion it may create has also to be considered in Brussels.

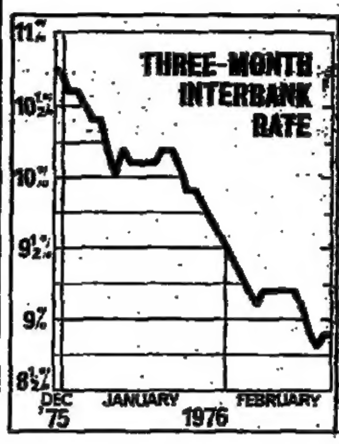
THE LEX COLUMN

Public spending, private doubts

Index fell 4.8 to 391.9

The stock market slipped further into reverse this week with the gilts index, for instance, nearly 4 per cent. off its peak reached at the end of last month. With the yields on the undateds now pushing back above 14 per cent., the size of the reverse yield gap is again starting to cast a shadow over equities, which gained little comfort from ICI's encouraging figures. Rights issues continue to appear in a steady stream, though not so far including another blockbuster on the scale of Lloyds, and judging by the low level of equity turnover the institutions are not in the mood to chase stock in the market. Nevertheless the signs of an international economic recovery are multiplying, and the hectic upswing now in progress on Wall Street could yet have a stimulating effect on the London market.

But in London equities they have been taking their lead from gilt-edged, and here the enthusiasm has waned. As a stimulating factor, the slowdown of inflation has lost some of its impact and interest rates have stopped falling for the time being—while the Government has started to become an active borrower again, judging by next week's record £500m. scheduled offering of Treasury bills. A new short tap stock might be the logical next move.



Thursday's long awaited White Paper on public spending has posed short-term problems—next year's spending will continue to rise, finally dashing any hopes that the public sector borrowing requirement might decline in 1976-77—and has also painted a disturbing picture of stretched financial markets for the rest of the decade. In the next four years the public sector is likely to run a total deficit of some £30bn., while annual debt interest will increase from £5bn. to £7.5bn. The inflationary dangers will remain acute, unless gilt sales are strongly pushed through high long-term interest rates. Yet it is possible that the Government may be forced to take steps to restructure its debt—perhaps through floating rate issues, or low coupon stocks at a discount—in a way which will radically change the shape of the gilt market.

Lifeguard

Much the biggest asset for most insurance brokers is goodwill, which is why their lack of support for Lifeguard Assurance (discussed on page 3) is so hard to justify. The latest balance sheet shows a deficit of £1.48m., and the insurance community has scraped up contributions of just £1.5m. (which will be allowable for tax, in many cases) to keep the operation running on a closhed fund basis. By and large it seems that the major brokers were reasonably co-operative, but the medium to small companies tended to be distinctly difficult.

The trouble stems from the fact that the company has over 700 shareholders, and dealt through more than 6,000 brokers: no single individual or company felt personally responsible for the management's evident failings. Yet the company had leading figures from the insurance world on its Board, and close associations with the Lloyd's community. Its consulting actuaries, Duncan C. Fraser, were aware that there were problems a full year before the company stopped taking new business, and potential buyers of the company were being actively sought throughout 1975. Fairly or not, the goodwill of the entire broking community has been diminished by this affair.

The final irony lies in the chairman's letter to policyholders: anyone who is unable to maintain a policy in force is "strongly advised to consult his insurance broker."

The chances of getting enough new capital to restore surrender values immediately seem negligible. The company estimates that it could take ... more to cope with ... exodus of policyholder... basis. It regards the ... treatment of its non-c... obligations as a ... rather than a perma... cellation, and hopes t... to restore the normal ... benefits gradually. ... that the deficit has b... the best hope might b... business to be absorbed... major institution, with ... of name that would b... to persuade most poli... to stay on board. The ... rewards from such ... would be intangible, ... stantial.

Motorway share...

An eighth below ... November peak, con... shares have underp... the market for some ... and yesterday the Whi... duly tightened the sc... usual the motorway sto... the hardest hit; Tarma... and Fairclough half ... even Marchwiel case ... despite some ... bumper profit figures. ... next four years the Whi... expects new motorway ... tion to reduce by ... tenth, while the ... on urban roadbuildin... drop by well over a q...

But cutbacks in ... spending are nothing ... the motorway groups— ... quarter of 1975 saw ... spent on total U.K. ... ing, against £647m. for ... quarter in 1970—and ... years the sector has d... fairly heavily. Less ... third of Marchwiel's ... currently arises from ... in the current year ... is going to decrease ... build-up outside the U. ... to come into play.

For 1974-75 group pr... £1.78m. higher at £7m. ... Portugal is out of the ... the main impetus has ... come from a combin... volume gains—second h... over rose a full 58 per ... and the run-off of earli... price contracts. O... Marchwiel's order book ... very patchy in places, ... longer term base for ... its U.K. business is sha... a yield of 3.9 per cent. ... ered over seven times; ... ance sheet cash could b... region of a third of a ... capitalisation of £18.1m.

Weather

U.K. TO-DAY

SOME rain in W. and N.

London, E. England
Fog patches clearing slowly. Dry. Bright intervals. Wind S., light. Max. 8C (46F).

N.W. and Cent. S. England
Cloudy. Little rain later. Wind S., moderate. Max. 9C (48F).

S.W. England, Wales, I. of Man, Channel Is., N. Ireland
Rain. Bright later. Wind S., moderate or strong. Max. 10C (50F).

E. Scotland
Fog patches. Dry. Bright intervals. Winds S., strong. Max 7C (45F).

W. Scotland
Rain at times. Winds S., strong or gale, becoming fresh. Max. 8C

Outlook: Little change.

Lighting-up: London 17.54, Manchester 17.59, Glasgow 18.01, Belfast 18.11.

BUSINESS CENTRES

		Y'day mid-day °C	°F			Y'day mid-day °C	°F
Amstrdm.	F	11	52	Manchstr.	C	8	46
Athens	F	12	54	Melbourne	S	18	64
Bahrain	C	19	66	Mexico C.	S	19	66
Barcelona	C	12	54	Milan	F	9	48
Belfast	C	6	43	Montreal	C	−2	28
Belgrade	S	4	39	Moscow	S	0	32
Berlin	S	4	39	Munich	Fg	0	32
Birmghm.	C	6	43	Newcastle	C	4	39
Bristol	C	7	45	New York	S	9	45
Brussels	S	12	54	Oslo	Su	−2	28
Budapest	S	5	41	Paris	C	10	50
B. Aires	C	23	73	Perth	S	33	91
Cairo	S	29	84	Prague	C	−1	30
Cardiff	C	6	43	Reykjavik	R	8	46
Cologne	C	8	46	Rio de J'o	S	30	86
Copnhagn.	F	0	32	Rome	F	15	59
Dublin	D	7	45	Singapore	S	31	88
Edinb'rgh	C	4	39	Stockholm	C	1	34
Frankfurt	C	6	43	Strasbourg	S	2	36
Geneva	F	8	46	Sydney	R	20	68
Glasgow	C	5	41	Tehran	S	0	32
Helsinki	C	−4	25	Tel Aviv	S	17	63
Hong Kong	C	16	61	Tokyo	C	5	41
Jo'burg	C	29	84	Toronto	C	1	34
Lisbon	C	13	55	Vienna	S	3	38
London	C	8	46	Warsaw	S	5	41
Luxemb'g	C	7	45	Zurich	C	10	50
Madrid	C	9	48				

HOLIDAY RESORTS

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Ajaccio	F	13	55	Jersey	Fg	7	45
Algiers	C	18	64	Locarno	C	9	48
Biarritz	F	15	59	Majorca	C	16	61
Blackpool	C	6	43	Malaga	S	17	63
Bordeaux	S	14	57	Malta	F	15	59
Boulogne	F	8	46	Nairobi	S	25	77
Casablnca.	S	17	63	Naples	F	15	59
Cape Town	C	23	73	Nassau	S	25	77
Corfu	C	12	54	Nice	F	14	57
Dubrovnik	S	13	55	Oporto	C	13	55
Faro	C	14	57	Rhodes	R	13	55
Funchal	R	13	55	Salzburg	S	2	36
Gibraltar	S	15	59	Tangier	S	18	64
Guernsey	Fg	6	43	Tenerife	S	13	55
Innsbruck	S	9	48	Tunis	S	18	64
Inverness	S	5	41	Valencia	F	16	61
Isle of Man	C	6	43	Venice	S	12	54
Istanbul	F	7	45				

S—Sunny. F—Fair. C—Cloudy. R—Rain. Sn—Snow. Fg—Fog. D—Drizzle.

COMPANY DIRECTORS
CAN YOU AFFORD TO HAVE KE[Y]
EXECUTIVES LOSE THEIR LICEN[CE]

Members of a St. Christopher's Group Mobility Plan can collect up to £60 per week to defray the costs of alternative transport in the event of disqualification.

You could be the world's safest driver. So could your senior colleagues in Sales, Production, Administration and Management.

But as a result of human error or chance occurrence, they still run the risk of being forced off the road by the Law of the Land.

And given the vital importance of mobility among senior executives today, loss of licence could seriously affect your corporate performance.

Securing the freedom to travel by road. St. Christopher offers an authorised insurance scheme established to protect motorists from loss of mobility arising as a result of disqualification, motor injury or accident.

And those who have been forced off the road have received as much as £60 a week to defray the costs of alternative transport, whether through public transport, chauffeur or hire car.

How much does it cost? Prem... can be offset against Company Ta... reducing their net cost by 52% at current tax rates. So depending on size of the group, a St. Christopher Group Mobility Plan could cost yo... company as little as 19p* a week.

Is there a limit to the size of g... No. A group of any size can be for... a department or a branch office or among a number of colleagues.

St. Christopher's will tailor a package to suit your particular nee... The bigger the group the bigg... the discount.

Needless to say, you can subsc... on your own to one of St. Christoph... many Motorists Mobility Plans, if y... prefer.

How do you join? Just complet... the coupon below and send it off. Yo... receive full details by return post. If ... prefer, you can telephone Cheltenha... 20471 or 01-629 7324 to arrange for ... analysis of your group requirement...

Whatever you do, do something today.

Who knows, tomorrow could be too late.

ST. CHRISTOPHER
Motorists' Security Association
Founded to secure your freedom to travel by r...

To: St. Christopher Motorists' Security Association
31 Rodney Road, Cheltenham GL50 1HX.

Name
Position
Company
Address
Tel No: FT

Registered at the Post Office. Printed by St. Clements Press Ltd. for and published by the Financial Times Ltd., Bracken House, Cannon Street, London, EC4P ...

© The Financial Times Ltd.,